

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was presented by Miss Christina Forrest, who showed that at present nursing in the United Kingdom is unorganised, and that at present the public have no State guarantee that the nurses they employ have been tested and found efficient, and that trained, semi-trained, and untrained compete together for employment on the same footing, leaving the public to discriminate as to their qualifications, of which they cannot be expert judges.

She referred to the co-operation of medical and nursing societies, under the chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, in the Central Committee for Registration, and briefly outlined the present position and the work which had been accomplished in regard to State Registration, since the last triennial meeting of the International Council of Nurses.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The report from the United States was prepared by a committee of the American Nurses Association, but Miss Dock proposed that as the American facts were so thoroughly well-known, the report should be taken as read, and this was agreed.

GERMANY.

The German report was presented by Sister Emma Ampt. It expressed regret that the three years' curriculum of training already enforced in other Anglo-Saxon countries had not yet been adopted in Germany; the one year's compulsory training was a great step forward, but unfortunately, it was only partially in force, Bavaria, Baden, Oldenburg and Mecklenburg not having joined the movement. Formerly, after a theoretical training of six weeks, a candidate could present herself to the public as a medically certificated nurse. Now she must pass a State examination after not less than one year's training, and a training school for nurses must obtain a State license; but it was regrettable that the State was content with the assurance of theoretical instruction, and neglected to insist upon what was so urgently necessary, the training of nurses under a competent professional woman.

Although the State does not indicate any intention of prolonging the term of training, it is possible, as the one year is compulsory, for hospitals to prolong the period of training to two or three years, and so secure a solid basis on which to found the profession securely.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Report for New Zealand, which was prepared by Miss Hester Maclean, and read by Miss Sutherland, stated that it was now over ten years since the Nurses' Registration Act came into force in the Dominion, and its effect upon the nurses trained in the various hospitals had had ample time to manifest itself.

State Registration affords to the nurse what she might otherwise not have had, a point at which to

aim, and gives to her teachers a standard which they must do their best to give her a chance to reach.

Without it, and without the test of the teaching given by a uniform examination, set by an independent authority, such as the State, there would be no guarantee whatever that a nurse had any but the most elementary knowledge of the work.

For the public registration is a protection. It is the people's own fault if they confide themselves, or those dear to them, to the care of unqualified persons. It is quite easy for them to ascertain whether a woman calling herself a nurse has any right to so call herself, and people begin to recognise the advisability of making enquiries.

Thoughtful women of education, in choosing a career for the future, will be more likely to allow their choice to follow inclination, and adopt a nurse's work when that has also legal recognition, when otherwise perhaps that of the doctor would have been the one chosen, because of its professional promise. The great benefit of registration is the differentiation of the qualified from the unqualified.

JAPAN.

Miss Take Hagiwara, speaking in Japanese, said that in her country nurses were not so far organised in professional societies; it had not been the national custom. They had, however, a highly organised Red Cross Society, through which the care of the sick and wounded was maintained at a high standard. She hoped to learn much during the sessions of the Congress.

HUNGARY.

Sister Kadar Ildiko of Budapest reported that until lately nursing had been principally in the hands of nuns, hospitals and clinics having been supplied with nurses through the religious orders. Lately the supply not having been equal to the demand, public opinion had been directed in favour of the employment of secular nurses. Up to five years ago these nurses were all supplied by the Red Cross Society, or taken from a certain class of untrained and uneducated women. The first Hungarian school for nurses formed on the German system met with no success. As the hospital had only ten beds, instruction was gained in the course of daily visits to neighbouring hospitals and clinics—an interesting but unpractical method. It was then decided to send Hungarian Sisters to the Moabit Hospital, Berlin, for a certain period of instruction. To this the present success was due. Not only was the Gondvisele's hospital now too small for its needs, but secular nursing was regarded from quite a different standpoint.

BELGIUM.

A number of reports were presented from Belgium. The first by Mme. La Comtesse Jean de Merode, who said that a system of examination for nurses was now in force in that country.

Dr. Maurice Peremans, representing the city of Antwerp, said that at each of the preceding International Congresses Belgium had been repre-

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