

sented, and during the last few years the progress made in that country had been notable. Too much importance must not be attached to the system of State Registration created by a Royal decree as it exists in that country, as no guarantee of practical work was required.

He considered that a training school for nurses should be connected with a hospital of not less than 40 beds under the authority of a medical superintendent; a matron should control the discipline of the nurses, theoretical instruction should be given by the doctors giving the practical instruction, pupils should have a general instruction corresponding to the middle studies in Belgium, three years' practical training should be required, the moral and material conditions under which the nurses live should be good.

Dr. G. Marcelle said that the *Conseil des Hospices* in Brussels well understood that the instruction of the nurse must follow therapeutic methods, and it conceived the idea of creating a technical school for nurses. In 1902 an attempt was made to give instruction in nursing to a certain number of women of the domestic classes remarkable for their intelligence, good conduct and devotion. But, unfortunately, owing to the insufficiency of their previous education, the efforts of the most painstaking instructors were in vain, and it became evident that only a school founded on lines similar to those in foreign countries could be effective. In 1907, therefore, the Council modified its programme and created a nursing school, giving a three years' course.

Dr. Marcelle concluded his paper with an expression of gratitude to those foreign associations of nurses which had indicated the way which they should follow, and thus enabled them to avoid numerous difficulties.

Dr. Depage, Professor of the Clique at the Hospital of St. Pierre, said that before 1907 nursing was practically non-existent in Belgium; the nuns were the only nurses, and, although sincerely devoted to their patients, they were governed by old ideas, and knew nothing of the progress initiated by Miss Florence Nightingale. The *Ecole Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées* was therefore founded under an English Matron, Miss Cavell, where the term of training is for three years.

The President then closed the session, and the members hastened to avail themselves of the courteous invitation of the Municipality to a Fête in the Flora.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

THE FETE AT THE FLORA.

The Open-air Fête given by the Municipality of Cologne in the Floral Town Gardens, "to honour the members of the Congress," was one of the most charming receptions during the week. Tea was laid for the guests in the central glass-house, where palms grew in tropical profusion, on rose decorated tables, and all kinds of national dainties were hospitably pressed upon the guests.

Tea over (although throughout the afternoon

trays laden with delicacies were brought round at intervals), Herr Bürgermeister Laué gave those present a heartfelt welcome in the name of the City of Cologne. "You," he said, "who have come from all countries to discuss your work for the good of the world, I welcome in this garden of flowers and blossoms. We are bound by a ribbon of brotherly love, and without considering nationality or religion; we bow the knee to one God. Once more we greet you in our city on the Rhine. May our town never be forgotten by you."

Sister Agnes Karll, in warmly thanking the Bürgermeister and Town Council for their hospitality in the name of the International Council of Nurses, assured him that the town of Cologne and its citizens would always be remembered with gratitude and affection by those present.

The members of the Congress then availed themselves of the opportunity to listen to the beautiful music, to see the exquisite gardens, ablaze with flowers, or to wander further on velvet lawns and rest under the shade of the lovely trees for which the gardens are noted.

THE BANQUET.

The Banquet held in the splendid gold and white ball-room of the Hôtel Disch on the evening of August 7th was a most brilliant social event, and will never be forgotten by those privileged to be present. Never before had a banquet organized by women been held in Cologne—but certainly it will not be the last. Over 350 guests assembled, and when Sister Agnes Karll took her seat at the high table—supported by the officers and delegates of the International Council and members of the Hospitality Committee—she looked upon a most bright and joyous scene. The gold and white decorations of the beautiful room—the tables laden with exquisite pink roses, the window ledges bright with bouquets presented to her by representatives of the National Councils—the gay company and enlivening strains of music—all combined to produce just the tone of colour and sound, inspiring in the highest degree.

In Germany it is the custom to make speeches between the courses—and, rising early in the evening, Dr. Ruhsack said that the opinion was sometimes expressed that in the Rhineland the modern woman was not appreciated, but the contrary was the fact. In Rhineland women had done serious work for their sex, which he attributed partly to the proximity of the University of Bonn, which attracted women students. Women with an aim in life knew how to claim their independence, to which everyone had a right. Dr. Ruhsack concluded by a reference to the debt of gratitude owed by the International Council of Nurses to its Presidents.

The next speaker was Dr. Hecker who won for himself so warm a regard from Congress members during the week, who said that in war victories were formerly won by individual courage, now they were won by generalship. He congratulated the Council upon its generals. The Congress

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