

spoke not only for himself but for the large Government Department which he represented.

A MATRON'S VIEW.

Sister Helene Meyer, a delegate of the German Nurses' Association, and Matron of the Municipal Hospital at Dortmund, who presented the next paper, complained strongly of the incredible abuses practised in many hospitals in Germany in connection with the overwork of nurses, declaring that it was far behind other countries in this matter. The work of the nurses on day duty began at six o'clock in the morning, sometimes at five, and the time for coming off duty was frequently only observed on paper. Night duty was also very hard. Nurses had a right to work in quiet, and that they could not do. Nor could they enjoy the pleasure which was legitimately theirs when their patients recovered, because they themselves were so tired and overworked, and from this cause thousands of healthy girls became ill every year. They could not devote themselves to culture, and they could not give the best that was in them to their patients, as they had not the time.

Sister Meyer, however, ended her paper on a note of hope, saying that we had glimpses of the beautiful dawn of a new era. We were conscious during this Congress of the encouragement derived from the knowledge that in unison with our colleagues we encircled the world with the same aims, and if we took the watchword of our Congress—"Aspiration"—as the guiding star of our work, the victory of those who strive would be our reward.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was then proposed by Miss Verwey Mejan (Holland), seconded by Oberin von Wietersheim (Germany), and carried unanimously:—

"Whereas with the advance made by scientists in the study and comprehension of the human mechanism, and with the new knowledge regarding the nature and effects of fatigue upon the human organism, it is seen to be unscientific and wasteful to destroy human capacities by overstrain, Resolved, that we earnestly beg hospital authorities to give the same consideration to the problem of overwork among nurses that industrial leaders are giving to the question of overwork among workers in industry in order that the present grievous destruction of the health of nurses may cease."

It was further agreed, on the proposition of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to send the resolution to the Secretary of State for the Home Department in countries in which a National Council of Nurses is affiliated to the International Council.

Mrs. Holgate (New Zealand) said that in that country, where nurses were registered by the State, and had the Parliamentary vote, they had an eight hours' day, and were reaping the benefit in health and happiness. Flaws were, however, sometimes discovered in the most apparently perfect things, and it was not certain, after experience of the system, that it was the best for the patients, whose interests came first.

THE GERMAN HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE JEWISH HOSPITAL.

Somewhat fagged after a very strenuous day, we arrived in the late afternoon at the Jewish Hospital, Cologne-Ehrenfeld.

Joining a party of visitors, we were at once shown over this well-arranged and comfortable hospital, which is capable of accommodating 200 patients, of whom we were told the larger number are Christians. The staff, medical and nursing, must be of Hebrew nationality.

There are no large wards—all are small. There are two operating theatres, a small one for operations on the nose, throat, ear, &c., and the other for general operations. Here I saw for the first time a machine for regulating and measuring the amount of the anæsthetic administered. The hospital is very complete, and has all the necessary arrangements for electric, hot air, sand, local and other baths, also a small gymnasium for exercises. The laundry, also, was very up to date, all the work being done by three workers, under a directress, and by machinery; washing, rinsing, wringing and ironing, all going on at the same time.

The nurses' home was, to me, almost more interesting than the hospital; one is so accustomed to find all the most recent inventions and discoveries in use for the benefit of patients, that one is surprised only when such things are wanting.

But in many cases it is quite otherwise in regard to the nurses; so often their comfort is the last consideration; but not so here. Evidently the care of the nurses is thought to be as important as the care of the patients.

The Nurses' Home is most complete in every particular. They have a charming suite of rooms for meals, recreation, study and rest, not forgetting a nice balcony. All are furnished most comfortably—almost luxuriously. The dining room is decorated in shades of red, with pretty carved chairs, covered with stamped leather. In the salon is a grand piano, so that the nurses have musical evenings.

Every nurse has her own room, charmingly furnished, and where she may scatter her personal treasures. All the bedrooms are decorated in shades of blue, with chairs, beds, and windows draped in linen to match.

The training is for 18 months, and just now all are working hard for the State examination, the advantage of which has been quickly realised.

In the home are isolation quarters, where those who have been nursing infectious cases may be quarantined. They have their own entrance, bath, etc. There are 33 nurses belonging to the home, some of whom go to private cases.

The nurses' hours in hospital are from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and at night from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. The day nurses have half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, one hour for recreation in the afternoon, and half an hour for afternoon coffee, and one month's holiday a year. After twenty years' service they are entitled to a pension.

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