

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7th.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

THE SOCIAL WORK OF NURSES.

The last Session of the Cologne Congress was held on the afternoon of August 7th, Sister Agnes Karll presiding. The first paper read was that by Miss Lina L. Rogers, R.N., Superintendent of School Nurses at Toronto, Canada. As we propose shortly to print this paper in full, we give here only a brief abstract.

SCHOOL NURSING IN TORONTO.

Miss Rogers said that when the Board of Education of Toronto began medical inspection of its public schools in 1910, she was invited to organise a School Nursing Service. The first step taken was to locate the schools, beginning with those in the poorer localities, to visit all the hospitals, dispensaries, and relief societies, to find out where assistance could be obtained, and at the same time to explain the object of the work. This interested many groups of people, and when the nurses started work they were cheerfully welcomed.

Miss Rogers then described in detail the methods employed by the nurses when visiting the schools. Their duties also included visits to the homes of the children, and it was during these visits that the nurse had such splendid opportunities for constructive work. Many a whole family had been saved by the friendly advice and assistance of a nurse, and the nurses felt that their opportunities and privileges were great.

The campaign for clean teeth also formed a big part of inspection work. The whole aim of this was prevention, and the nurses were proceeding along the lines of prophylaxis rather than waiting for disease to appear. Adequate provision for feeble-minded children had still to be made, special attention was being given at present to the anæmic, poorly developed children, for whom an open-air school had been opened.

Toronto had the distinction of being the first city to give a post-graduate course to nurses wishing to supplement their general training by a course of school nursing.

SOCIAL WORK IN HOLLAND.

Miss Tilanus, who presented the paper compiled on behalf of the Dutch Nurses' Association, said that they had collected reports from those nurses who participated in social work, and were able to make the following statement.

1. *Day and Night Nurseries.* Such an establishment had been opened at Delft. At first children were only taken by day; at present they were accepted for both day and night from a few

weeks up to four years old. It was specially intended for children both of whose parents were absent from home for some time. In favourable weather most of the time was passed out of doors. The food was very plain, costing about 2d. per day per child, or even less when several children were taken from one household, but unexpectedly good results were obtained. Hygienic conditions were carefully observed. Every child had his own wash-rag and towel, and handkerchiefs were not used, but small pieces of paper, which were thrown away after use. The great need of such an establishment was demonstrated by the fact that the house was always crowded.

2. *A Red Cross Ambulance.* An Association of Nurses who had agreed to assist in time of war or disaster.

3. *The Association for the Prevention and Suppression of Tuberculosis.* This was a large Association, occupying several nurses, who visited the homes of tuberculous patients and gave them advice.

4. *The Orange Cross.* For first aid in emergency and shipwreck. Founded by the Prince Consort. Several members of the Dutch Nurses' Association were always ready to assist this League.

5. *Milk Kitchens.* Dispensaries where mothers came with their babies to obtain advice concerning food and care, and where the milk for the infants' bottles was prepared according to the doctors' prescriptions.

6. *District Nursing.* From its character this afforded the greatest opportunity for social work. All cities had several district nurses, and most villages had at least one.

7. *Workhouse Nursing.* Where the nurses took care of the old people who lived there.

8. *Infirmary Nursing.* The care of the sick.

9. *Homes for Neglected Children and Adults.* A private undertaking in Amsterdam, which received pecuniary aid from the city of Amsterdam. About 400 patients were cared for by several trained nurses.

10. *Homes for Feeble-minded Children.* Where the little patients were cared for by nurses.

11. *Clinics.* Consultation offices for infants, where nurses assisted the doctors during office hours when mothers were coming for advice.

12. *Maternity Nursing.* Undertaken by visiting nurses.

13. *Convalescent Homes.* Some hospitals had their own convalescent homes in the country, where nurses were employed. Several private enterprises also existed.

14. *Dispensary Work.* In connection with out-patient departments. This afforded a great opportunity for social work, as it consisted in caring for patients some time after they had left the hospitals.

15. *Orphan Asylums.* These also afforded an opportunity for the work of trained nurses.

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