

Bremer Society in Stockholm," and with it was united, in 1909, a similar bureau which had been founded, in 1903, in Gothenburg, by the Medical Society as a Nursing Directory. Both were now managed by trained nurses, and in consequence a more expert assignment of nurses to suitable positions was made, and the educational qualifications demanded of women registering with the bureau were raised.

The number of nurses so registered was over 400; about half this number were engaged in private duty, while the others sought permanent positions. These two Bureaus, in Stockholm and Gothenburg, were the first, the largest, and in their way the only groups which, possessing no hospital facilities for training, nevertheless exerted a profound influence in elevating educational standards and promoting the well-being of nurses.

5. *Various and Unclassified.* Among the various lines coming under this heading were the following:

Within the last four years women police assistants had been appointed in Stockholm and Gothenburg, and several nurses had entered this career.

For twelve years nurses have been successfully engaged in giving simple popular talks on hygiene, nursing and the care of children, to circles of private pupils, young girls and older women of the educated classes.

As inspectors of housing conditions and managers of working-class dwellings they had also made their way.

Midwifery was taken up as a speciality by numbers of nurses.

Mission work called some, and required special study and preparation.

Four years ago the Swedish Nursing paper *Svensk Sjukskötersketidning* was called into existence by nurses, and from its inception had been edited and managed by nurses.

Nurses occupied positions as officers of the "General Pension Fund for Swedish Nurses" and of the "Nurses Sick Benefit Fund."

A nurse has also been recently made member of the "Stadtbevollmächtigten Stockholms."

(To be continued.)

GREETINGS FROM INDIA.

AN OPEN LETTER.

DEAR MADAM,—At last it is an accomplished fact, and India is "Affiliated"! A new, young, but steady, sincere, true and growing member of the body of the International Council of Nurses. For two years we have been working for, aiming at this consummation, and now at the Conference to be held at Bangalore on November 13th, 14th, 15th, we shall have the pleasure of announcing *the fact*, and experience the energising sensation of no longer standing alone, but of now having a

strong vital mother, who has fought her battles for her own existence, and therefore will know how to sympathise and help the youngest daughter, who has tackled a task bristling with Oriental difficulties, and—worse than any open enemy—lethargy.

The only sorrowful thought is that the hopes and earnest desire of last year, the planning to be present at Cologne on the great day, came to nought, and the combined pleasure and duty had to be delegated to others. For several weeks before August 5th I had determined to cable greetings from the members of the Associations in India to tell our comrades that, although absent in the body, we were with them in spirit, and wondering during the days of the "Great Meeting" just what was going on. But alas! the cable seems to have miscarried. It was addressed "President, Nursing Conference, Cologne," and said, "India's greetings.—Tindall, Tippetts, Presidents." I sent it off between 12 and 1 o'clock midday, hoping thereby to secure its delivery before or actually at the morning session on Monday, 5th.

I know it would have added an extra cheer to our friends and delegates to have had the assurance of our thoughts and wishes throughout the inspiring hours of communion with kindred spirits, for I think, of *all* lands, India is *the* one where one feels *loneliness* more than anywhere else; its distances are so vast; its British community so infinitesimal compared with the native millions; the nursing profession so young, the true nursing spirit almost non-existent; and we have fought so many battles side by side; we know how each one's daily work—the constant fight to maintain its ideals, to get the work properly done, to instil the, as yet (but to be remedied, I hope, at the coming Conference) unwritten ethics of our profession—taxes our strength and every nerve; and, therefore, in the midst of joyful reunion "At Home," surrounded by the atmosphere of all that is best in the world's nursing, we should have loved to add the final pleasure of their being remembered by their fellow-workers in India.

Forgive, Dear Founder, the shortcomings of this hasty line, sent to tell you and our thousands of colleagues of the joy it is to be able to sign ourselves,

United to the International Council of Nurses.

S. G. TINDALL,
President.

Cama Hospital,
Bombay.

previous page

next page