

but between times they received neither treatment nor care. Thus the greater number perished either from the effects of their condition or from other current complaints to which, owing to their weakness, they were specially prone.

In the Home for the first four years of life they received constant care and kindness. Up to the present twenty-six children had been received, and already one-third who were subjected to the well-known blood examination of Wasserman, gave a negative result. The others were on the road to convalescence. The condition of the children was excellent, they thrived splendidly. A new building, equipped with all the newest hygienic appliances, had now been erected to hold forty children. This was, of course, only "a drop on a hot stone" in relation to the terrifying number of such children. Their treatment in the Home was in the hands of Dr. O. Rosenthal, of Berlin, a dermatologist well known in scientific circles.

The children, as above stated, remained in the Home until they reached the age of five. The sooner they came in, the better were the prospects for their complete cure. The mothers of the children were also received so long as they were able to nurse their infants, for their natural nourishment proved the most satisfactory for these children with hereditary disease. Great success had however, also been achieved with cow's milk, affording a proof that children afflicted with hereditary syphilis could thrive on artificial treatment when carefully carried out.

#### RESOLUTION.

Sister Maria Koellner then offered a resolution which, after some discussion, was seconded by Miss Dock, in the following form and unanimously adopted: "This Congress requests the International Council of Nurses to use its influence to stimulate enquiries into the Social Condition of Nurses in the affiliated countries."

This concluded the business of the last session of the Cologne Congress, a most memorable one in the annals of the International Council of Nurses.

Our report will conclude next week with the Official Votes of Thanks to Sister Agnes Karll, the President, and to all those eminent people who entertained the Nurses' International Congress, with such gracious hospitality.

#### TUBERCULOSIS NURSING AND COOKERY EXHIBITION.

Arrangements have been made for holding a Tuberculosis Nursing and Cookery Exhibition at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, which will be opened by the Duchess of Beaufort on Monday, October 7th, at 2 p.m., at which ceremony the Chairman of the County Council (Mr. M. W. Colchester-Wemyss) will preside. The public will be able to view the very instructive exhibits by the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, also to attend the cookery demonstration by the Gloucester School of Domestic Science. It is hoped the practical lessons in hygiene may have lasting results on the health of the county.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

### REPORT FROM ITALY.

At the London International Congress we were able to announce the approaching opening of a Training School for Italian Nurses at the Policlinico Hospital, Rome.

Thanks to unwearying and undaunted efforts on the part of Princess Doria and Mme. Maraini the hospital authorities had arranged for the immediate building of a *Convitto*—nurses' home—the first in Italy. The Queen Elena was interesting herself actively in the scheme, and the great surgeon, Prof. Bastianelli, wished that the school should commence in his wards.

In March of the following year (1910) this Training School was opened. Miss Dorothy A. Snell accepted the post of matron, and with a staff of twelve English certificated nurses and fourteen Italian probationers took over the entire nursing of some seventy-six to eighty patients, the *Suora* of each ward retaining the economic departments (charge of linen and food).

In the following December (1910) Miss Snell increased her staff to twenty-one English certificated nurses and twenty-seven Italian probationers, and the nursing of a medical block containing seventy-six to eighty male and female patients was entrusted to her.

We were thus able to offer pupils from the beginning a training according to fundamental principles; in wards both surgical and medical, in the operating theatre and dressing room (*medicheria*), all under the direction of trained nurses. We were also able to exact—though few in Italy understood the necessity—that the duration of training should be not less than two years, whilst a third year was impressed as really essential for the acquisition of experience.

That pioneer work is inevitably difficult *va sans dire*, and had Providence granted Italy any less "ordained instruments" than our President, Vice-President and Matron, this work of reform would have been *de facto* impossible.

In the first place, the idea that "signorine" could work at all in hospitals was not easily accepted. "In other countries, yes, but in Italy we are not ready for it," was repeated *ad nauseam*. It entailed "too much liberty" for girls who had been educated on more or less conventual or harem lines—accustomed to constant chaperonage and surveillance. Few were the parents—of the well-to-do middle classes—who in the beginning had the faith and courage to consent to their daughters embarking on so venturesome a career.

And then the idea of working really hard—"like servants"—was hard of acceptance. A training school to perhaps the majority of the "profane" means *lectures and demonstration classes*. "We have learnt how to give bed-baths, how to carbolize, &c., &c., and therefore need not continue doing them," was the real point of view of, at any rate, a good minority. Others—good!

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