

Catholics—feared that lay nurses' intervention in hospitals would, directly or indirectly, injure the position of the religious nursing orders.

But after two and a-half years we can claim to have successfully combatted these and many other difficulties, for the original thirteen probationers (collected with such effort by the committee) have now grown into thirty-eight, whilst many others are accepted and await vacancies, and still other applications are coming from every part of the peninsula.

Seventeen of the senior probationers passed examinations conducted by six professors last June, several of them doing quite brilliantly. As these nurses complete their two years' practical training (seven have done so), Matron promotes them to staff nurses' posts in the wards and to the white uniform of the staff nurse.

In the autumn their diploma certificates will be given them by S.M. Queen Elena, also a medal which she herself designed.

As the first year probationers pass their exams. and finish a year's work in the wards they are promoted to "green belts" (their print gown is a pretty small green and white stripe), and will attend the second year's course of lectures in November.

Regarding the capacity for nursing of the Italian woman, experience has proved the correctness of Miss Nightingale's high appreciation of their aptitude, though the majority do not possess the resistance to fatigue and the determined thoroughness of the Saxon races.

But they are realising already, now that responsibility is beginning to be given them, that a "nursing school" is not a studio or an academy of fine arts, but that system and organised ward work, the acquiring of hospital manners and observing of hospital etiquette, and, above all, of hospital discipline, make up the real training of

the ideal nurse, completing the knowledge of technique and theory which at first was deemed the only requisite.

The Home is already enlarged, and further improvements are to be carried out this summer, especially the building of a large dining-hall, which the increasing numbers render necessary, and an increase of twenty bedrooms. So soon as these improvements are completed Matron will take over new wards—possibly in November.

When I look back on what the wards were here before, and in the early days of, our advent, and see what they have now become under the direction of Matron and Sisters, I realise what ground we have gained in these three years. [1]

At what cost the order and comfort and smartness have been obtained, only those who have laboured and endured and fought can quite know. Many who started to put their hands to the plough removed them, in some period of discouragement or especial difficulty. But the sick of Italy and her daughters who have the nurse vocation owe (and many already express it) an unpayable debt of gratitude to those who have held high the standard through storm and stress, and have succeeded in laying firmly the founda-

tion stone of "trained nursing," foremost amongst whom must ever remain the names of President, Vice-President and Matron.

NAPLES.

From Naples Miss Baxter sends the list of her graduates. It comprises two *Direttrici* in the Hospitals of Chieti and Teramo, two *idem* in Nursing Homes in Naples, eleven head nurses in hospitals and Government *cliniques*. Others have adopted massage and obtained posts, others again have become certificated obstetric nurses and devote themselves to these branches of nursing.



ENGLISH STAFF NURSE WITH TWO ITALIAN PROBATIONERS.
SCULO CONVITTO REGINA ELENA, ROME.

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