

corrective action of the acid, putrefaction and fermentation are set up in the stomach, causing irritation and inflammation of its glandular structures and the establishment of a condition of gastric catarrh, chronic indigestion, or dyspepsia."

Miss Tatham points out that "a septic mouth is a source of constant danger to anyone and particularly when debilitated by illness, so the care of the mouth is one of the nurse's most important duties.

"First thing in the morning before breakfast, the patient's mouth should be thoroughly cleansed. If he is unable to sit up he can probably turn on his side with assistance. I should tuck a large 'bib' of jaconet with a towel over it under the patient's chin and across the pillow, so as to avoid the possibility of dampening the bed or the patient. A kidney-shaped receiver is useful, but the bottom of a soap dish will do as well for catching any water."

She then describes the method to be adopted.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How might a case of scarlatinal nephritis be recognized, and how should such a case be nursed?

## A HISTORY OF NURSING.

### III. -

#### NURSING IN THE COUNTRIES OF NORTHERN EUROPE.

Miss Dock's collaborators in the chapter on the countries of Northern Europe are a committee of Swedish nurses, the Danish Nurses' Association, and Baroness Mannerheim, Finland.

#### SWEDEN.

In Sweden, we read, the nursing of the sick under various systems has been general since the beginning of Christianity. Originally it was undertaken chiefly by the Religious Orders in the Roman Catholic Church, but, on the decline of that Church in the country, it was either neglected or undertaken by people who lacked both the spiritual and practical qualities necessary for the nurse's calling.

It is interesting to learn that the first impulse to a new era emanated from the Deaconess Institution at Kaiserswerth, and that the Swedish Institution was founded on this model; also Miss Nightingale's influence was felt there as elsewhere. The present Queen Dowager, Queen Sophia, recognizing the importance of the employment of educated women as nurses of the sick, founded in 1889 the Sophia Home, a hospital with a Nurses' Home attached, which is now the principal training home for nurses in

Sweden. From the first Her Majesty the Queen Dowager has been President of the Board of Direction. Other training schools are the Institution of Deaconesses in Stockholm, the Swedish Red Cross Society, the Samaritan Home in Upsala, the South of Sweden Nursing Home, the Fredrika Bremer Association, and perhaps most interesting of all, because most uncommon, the Deacon Institute at Sköndad, near Stockholm, founded in 1898 on the same principles as the Deaconess Institute. Here men are trained to work as parish deacons, managers of lunatic asylum departments, poor-houses, homes for inebriates, &c. The number of deacons trained in 1909 was about 50.

Sweden has had a Nurses' Journal since 1909, and on March 14th, 1910, "a National Council of Swedish Nurses was formed, in perfect harmony with the many different mother institutions, and with the most lively interest of the nurses themselves to ensure its success. The first President of the Association was Miss Emmie Lindhagen, Sister in the Serafimer Hospital, Stockholm, an admirable leader, and strong, well-balanced nature."

#### DENMARK.

We learn that "the honour of having first introduced an organized nursing system into Denmark is due to the Danish Deaconess Institute, which owes its founding to the Crown Princess Louise, Consort of the Crown Prince Christian, who, during a visit to Mecklenburg, had had occasion to see the great work which was carried on from the mother institute Ludwigslust. Louise Martinie Laurette Conring became the first Sister Superior of the Danish Deaconess Institute. During the first Danish-German War she came to Copenhagen, began early to work in the service of philanthropy, and in 1855 was Matron of the Royal Hospital."

Organization amongst the nurses themselves began in 1899, when Mrs. Norrie, a delegate to the meeting of the International Council of Women in London, was present at the inception of the International Council of Nurses; presented a report on her return, and acted as the first Chairman of the Union of Danish Nurses. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Tscherning was elected President, and holds office at the present time. She has had able coadjutors in Miss Bodil Helfach and Miss Cecilia Lütken. "It has been the great aim of the Danish Nurses' Union to insure the nurses against an inadequate training, and out of chaotic conditions to establish regulated and legal conditions for a class which during the last thirty-odd years has grown to comprise three to four thousand members of the Danish population."

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