

FINLAND.

The story of nursing in Finland appeals keenly to the nurses of the world because of the struggles which its brave, charming, patriotic, and withal modest people have been called upon to pass through. In the olden times, we are told, the so-called "wise women" combined the functions of doctor and nurse. Their methods consisted chiefly of wet-cupping, hot vapour baths, and massage, and even nowadays there are people, mostly belonging to the peasant class, who have greater faith in the prescriptions of "wise women" and "wise men" than in those of any medical man, and, as their methods largely appeal to nature's own curative power, the results they obtain are often very satisfactory.

The first hospitals in Finland were founded by the Church. That of St. Göran (St. George), built in 1355, was a "leprosarium," and that of the Holy Spirit, built in 1396, an infirmary for "the sick and poor." Both were situated in Åbo, and ruled over by the Order of St. Dominicus. With the Reformation, as in England, so in Finland evil times befell the hospitals. They were "always asking the Government for subsidies, and complaining that they did not get them." To the present day all county and general hospitals are Government institutions. Reform, we are told, was badly needed, but it was not until after the middle of the last century that a lady widely known in Finland for her philanthropic works, Mme. Aurore Karamzine, realized that something must be done, and did it. In 1867 she founded the House of Deaconesses in Helsingfors, and introduced a new system of nursing. This House was a branch of the Kaiserswerth Order, and its first Superintendent, Mrs. Amanda Cajander, trained in the Deaconess House in St. Petersburg. She was the first woman from the educated classes in Finland to take up nursing, and succeeded, in spite of much opposition, in raising the standards of the nursing profession and making it respected, and in infusing into its work a spirit of devotion and self-forgetfulness which is the heritage and characteristic of Finnish Nurses of the present day. She was succeeded in 1883 by Sister Lina, still Matron of the Deaconess House in Helsingfors.

Miss Dock's Finnish collaborators, writing of the work of the Deaconesses, say: "It is not more than justice to say that the work thus done has been beautiful work, and that we nurses feel we owe the Deaconesses a place of honour in the history of nursing so far as it concerns Finland."

The first Matron of the Surgical Hospital,

Helsingfors, inaugurated in 1888, was trained partly at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; the present one—Baroness Mannerheim—at St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

To Miss Koreneff belongs the honour of having last year advanced the course of training at the City Hospital to three years—an example stimulating to other hospitals.

It was through the International Council of Nurses that the nurses of the world were first brought into touch with their Finnish colleagues. Those who attended the Paris Conference in 1907 will well remember that Baroness Mannerheim was present, and how, in Miss Dock's graphic words, "She took all hearts by storm." Finland had already its Association of Nurses, and its nursing magazine, *Epione*, received the impetus necessary for its foundation from some words of Sister Agnes Karll at the same Conference. "Only get a nursing paper, and all the rest will come." In 1909 the Association of Finnish Nurses entered into membership with the International Council.

NORWAY.

In Norway, as in Sweden, the Red Cross is, we read, eminent in nursing work, Norway being one of the first countries to adhere to the treaty of Geneva, but it was not until 1894 that the Red Cross Society of Norway began the systematic training of nurses. The Society not only undertakes to supply nurses in war time, but also for private duty in time of peace. It therefore builds hospitals, staffs them, and organizes the work of private duty registries. Red Cross nurses also do district nursing, and assist in times of disaster and calamity, and in the campaign against tuberculosis act as visiting nurses and teachers of hygiene and food preparation, and see to disinfection and details of isolation of cases.

Miss Dock characterizes the nurses who came from the north countries to the London Congress in 1909 as "the most ideal set of women for their calling one could wish to see—tall, fair, and fine-looking, their faces beaming with good and gentle strength of character."

M. B.

A ROYAL RED CROSS SISTER.

By the kindness of the Editor of *The Gentlewoman*, we are able to publish the accompanying photograph of the Queen of Bulgaria in the uniform of a Red Cross Sister, taken by the Topical Press Agency. Her Majesty has shown her personal sympathy with the wounded by taking an active part in all the organizations for their relief.

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