

## HOLLAND.

In the section on Holland, the author quotes from a paper by Mej C. A. La Bastide Baarslag presented to the Buffalo Congress, which shows that about fifty years ago sick nursing in Holland was chiefly the task of religious corporations, more especially of Roman Catholic Orders. "Not until the year 1830 did there arise in Protestant hearts the ardent desire to bring aid and comfort to their sick fellow men, and the Protestant deaconesses took up this work of charity."

The two chief associations in Holland with which nurses are connected are (1) *The Bond*, of which the large majority of members are physicians, directors of hospitals, and matrons, as well as laymen, and members of philanthropic societies, and (2) *Nosokomos*. "Excellent as are, without doubt, the motives and aims of the nurses and matrons on the *Bond*, it has not from the point of view of the working nurses been an actively useful body. . . . The influence of hospital authorities predominates in the Association, and even the matrons have only the passive rôle assigned them of seeming to share in discussions and motions which are, in reality, settled as the financial, or commercial, or professional aspects of hospital industrialism dictate."

Miss Dock contrasts the difference of the influence of the matrons in Holland in nursing matters to that of the organised matrons in this country and America. "It may be said that in Great Britain and America the organised matrons have always led, followed and trusted by the nurses; in Holland the nurses have led, while the matrons have remained in the background, afraid to assert themselves against the hospital directors. *The Bond* is really a clearing house, where compromises made necessary by the business circumstances of the various hospitals and institutions are agreed upon; it is not at all a truly educational or professional body, nor is it a highly ethical one. It is a characteristic example of that form of organisation that is commended and encouraged by employers who are secretly unwilling to permit independent self-governing organisations to arise among workers, especially when the latter are women."

"*Nosokomos* owes its inception, and the marked influence it has exerted in the nursing world, to the splendid woman who was until 1909 its leader—Miss E. J. van Stockum." It was during her training that she realised how many abuses called for reform, and what an absolute want of solidarity there was among nurses. "She felt that, as much in the

interests of the patients as in that of the nurses, the latter's servile attitude towards the directors of the hospitals should change, that they should protest openly against the long working hours, and excessive rough work, and above all, that they should be protected against the unfair competition of those who were badly trained, or even, in some cases, without any training at all. In 1896 she married Dr. Aletrino, who, equally with herself, was a warm champion of justice and progress. The original plan of uniting the nurses together in one association was theirs.

"Another woman of unusual gifts of discernment and devotion gave herself to the cause of advancing the educational and ethical status of nurses, namely, Miss J. C. van Lanschot Hubrecht, for a long time the Secretary (and now President) of the Association. . . . She soon formed a warm friendship with Mrs. Aletrino and her husband, and under their stimulating influence she gave herself wholly, with deep enthusiasm, to the work of the Association, seeing in it a part of the great cause of human progress through uplift of the workers, and especially of women. They met the usual obstacles."

Of the journal of the Association, also named *Nosokomos*, we read that it "was indeed a militant publication. For years, it fearlessly attacked every stronghold of power and privilege as related to the world and work of nursing. It stood with *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* and *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière* in its self-imposed mission of combat against the mercenary and undemocratic order which retarded the advance of women workers."

The Society has now an office in Amsterdam as headquarters, and has founded a large and influential Society for the Promotion of State Registration, for which it is steadfastly working. The leading nurses are supporting the woman suffrage movement as fundamental to changed conditions of education and of work for women.

## BELGIUM.

In Belgium, where a form of registration, under Royal edict, is in force, we read that "elementary though it be, the Belgian state registration has already had a salutary effect in stimulating training efforts." There are several schools now which are endeavouring to train lay nurses on modern lines, and the Training School at the Hospital of St. John in Brussels "is under the control of the city administration, and bright hopes for its future now seem justified—and the school directed by Miss Cavell is well past the experimental stage."

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