

present. The Matron, Miss Dorothy Snell, and the English Sisters, were in white linen gowns and handkerchief caps; the Italian staff nurses, who had just completed their training, in white gowns with Sister Dora caps, the probationers in cool green and white gingham.

Amongst those privileged to be present was Miss Violetta Thurstan, the newly appointed Matron of the Spezia Hospital.

At 3 p.m. there was a sudden hush, and the Queen entered, charmingly dressed in nattier blue, and black, and took her place, with Princess Doria, President of the Nursing School, on her right, and Madame Maraini on her left. His Majesty the King was also present.

The proceedings were opened by an able speech from Professor Bastianelli, the senior Surgeon of the Hospital, in which he made graceful allusion to the interest the Queen takes in every branch of nursing, and her very practical knowledge of the art—as her devoted work at the time of the Messina earthquake showed. He then went on to give a sketch of the creation and growth of the Nursing School, and said that at the Policlinico Hospital the devotion and enthusiasm shown had lighted a torch, which he hoped one day would light all Italy. This was followed by a short address from Professor Lutrarire, in which he spoke of the great debt of gratitude that Italy owed to England, and reminded his audience that Italy was the birth-place of the great founder of nursing, Florence Nightingale, and that it was by working on the lines that Florence Nightingale laid down, they had been able to reform the nursing in the great Policlinico Hospital.

The nurses then advanced two by two with soldier-like smartness, and received their certificates and silver medals at the hands of the Queen, Her Majesty pinning on every medal herself with a smile and a word for each. Amongst the nurses receiving medals were two dear little Florentine nuns, who were keenly enjoying this unwonted excitement.

Then came the turn of the English Sisters. Every Sister who has worked two years in the hospital also received a silver medal with her name and the date at the back, and the Queen's initial on the front.

The Matron, Miss Snell, was then presented with a beautiful gold medal to show Her Majesty's appreciation of her work and devotion to the cause of nursing in Italy. The Queen then spoke a word of encouragement to every probationer separately, winning all hearts by her gracious manners and charming smile.

Tea was then served, and the ceremony over, a red-letter day to those who took part in it.

## TRAINED NURSES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.

It is needless to lay any further stress on the indignation of the self-governing nurses' societies, and, indeed, of many who "keep themselves to themselves," as the more self-interested do—at their marked exclusion from representation with other classes of insured women, on the Advisory Committees formed under the National Insurance Act—and, as a result—their entire lack of power to represent their views and needs—power granted (as it should be) to ward-maids and other domestic women workers, to factory girls, and others!

The reason for this unjust exclusion was probably prompted by the fact that much of the hard work, certainly the cheapest form of it, under the Act would have to be carried out by trained nurses, or by their many untrained competitors, and the less power placed in the hands of trained nurses, under these circumstances, the better from the employers' point of view! Hence the anomaly.

#### CO-OPERATION NECESSARY.

But trained nurses are not the only class who find the Act in its working unwieldy, costly, and aggravating—so a few public-spirited persons, realising the benefit of co-operation, have been meeting together during the past few months, and have come to the conclusion that an Association of Approved Societies would be exceedingly useful to all concerned.

#### THE CONFERENCE.

A Conference of delegates from Approved Societies, therefore, met on April 4th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., at which Mr. Charles Bathurst, M.P., took the chair; and it was unanimously decided to form the Association. The objects adopted were as follows:

#### OBJECTS.

- (1) To promote and protect the interests of members of Approved Societies.
- (2) To enter into negotiation with the medical and nursing professions, and with hospitals and other institutions.
- (3) To encourage a uniformity of policy among Approved Societies.
- (4) To simplify the administration of the Insurance Act.
- (5) To promote and watch over legislation affecting insured persons.
- (6) To be an Association within the meaning of Section 39 of the Insurance Act.

Membership is open to any Society or Federation or Group of Approved Societies; and an Annual Conference will be held.

Mr. Charles Bathurst, M.P., was elected Chairman; and Mr. Alban Gordon (the Secretary of the Domestic Servants Approved Society), Hon. Secretary.

A Vice-Chair and Treasurer were also elected; and it was agreed that the management should be

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