

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Miss Huxley, President of the Irish Nurses' Association and of the Conference, said:—It is my pleasing duty to welcome to this city you, the members of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and to assure you of the deep pleasure your presence gives us.

When the Irish Nurses' Association was formed some twelve years ago, we little thought then, that our united action would prove sufficiently important to attract the distinguished women who have journeyed long distances to join in our deliberations and to make merry with us for the next few days.

In this age of combination and co-operation, it seems fitting that nurses should realise that they are not solitary units, but members of one great body, and the advantage of a Conference such as this, is, that it brings the *fact* of unity and co-operation vividly before the minds of those who are assembled.

In all burning questions of the day nurses have their share, and their attitude towards these questions must be determined by the exigencies of their own professional life.

Therefore it is that a Conference is so beneficial—giving us hints and suggestions, in that spirit of mutual helpfulness, which prevents misconceptions and clears away misunderstandings.

The choice of Dublin as the meeting place for the first Annual National Conference is an honour conferred on us, and we hope you may find pleasure in the numerous interesting places of this Ancient City, and in the natural beauty of its surroundings.

The questions to be discussed this week concern Nurses in all branches of their profession.

From the standpoint of long experience, I earnestly commend to your consideration the subject of State Registration, which affects all Nurses from the day they apply for Hospital Training, till the day their nursing work is done for ever.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will speak on this important question, in her own inimitable way, to-morrow morning. Mrs. Dickie, whom we all know as an able worker, will speak to us on the Law as it affects Nurses.

Miss Haughton, whom we are delighted to have with us again, will tell us of Preliminary Training of Probationers.

Reciprocal Training, Massage Training and Education, Physical Degeneracy, Legal Status of Midwives, Poor Law, and School Nursing, each have a place on our programme, and we hope that from speeches and discussions we

may gain clear guidance, and return to our work refreshed and stimulated, ready to meet the difficulties of the common round in a spirit of high courage and determination, which in itself is the augury of success.

I will not encroach further on the valuable time of the Conference, as there is so much of interest to follow. I can only again express how warmly welcome all our guests are, and the pleasure their visit affords us.

The Chairman then called on Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, London, to present the first paper.

THE PRELIMINARY TRAINING OF PROBATIONERS.

Miss Haughton said that so important had been the changes, and so rapid the progress which medicine and surgery had made during the last twenty years that it seemed but natural and advisable to pass in review the corresponding advances made in the training of nurses during the same period, and, amongst these the establishment of the preliminary training school for nursing pupils was one upon which we could look back with satisfaction. She mentioned that the first such school was established in 1893 in connection with the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, by Mrs. Strong, then Matron, on the suggestion of Sir William Macewen. The passing of years had, she said, only served to strengthen belief in such a system of education for any institution where nurses were in training. The physician and surgeon now demanded a high standard of intelligence and of general education from the women who assisted them in their scientific work, and further, the large increase in the number of special departments in all our hospitals, and the multiplication of special forms of treatment made it essential that the nurse should be a useful unit during the whole of her three years' training. If the first few months were spent in doing work which she did not understand there would not be time during that three years to obtain experience of work in the many departments which form part of the large general hospital of to-day. Miss Haughton emphasised the importance of the choice of an instructress for the preliminary training school, and described in detail the courses in various Preliminary Training Schools, both in this country and at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. She considered that the course in this country should be extended to eight or even twelve weeks and that more attention should be given to household economics than at present.

RECIPROCAL HOSPITAL TRAINING.

Miss B. Cutler, Assistant Matron at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said that trained nurses exist in order that they may render skilled and efficient aid: (1) in the prevention of disease and (2) in its cure or amelioration. The question of how they might best be educated for their responsible duties was therefore one of supreme impor-

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