

anxious that in any new Orders that may be issued their position may be improved, so that really good women and capable nurses will apply for these posts. It is so important that these poor helpless patients should have the very best skilled attention, but owing to the present conditions it is most difficult to get good nurses to take up this work. The ninety-eight Superintendent Nurses who have written to me on this subject practically all agree in asking for the same, namely, that they may have direct access to the Committee and may personally present their own reports. They wish to be responsible to the Medical Officer for their nursing, and to work loyally under him; but they one and all resent the idea that they, as trained nurses, should in any way be placed under the dominance of the Workhouse Master and Matron, and suggest that the Master should hold the same position towards the sick wards as the Steward does in the separate institutions. In many country places apparently, the Workhouse Master chooses and recommends the nurses for appointment, and issues their passes for leave, &c.

I have been asked to tell you about our Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association. Recognizing the strength of union, we in London started an Association, those being eligible as members who are Matrons or Superintendent Nurses of infirmaries recognized by the L.G.B. as Training Schools. Many are also members of the Matrons' Council. Our Association has been very successful; practically all the Poor Law Matrons in London and those of the large provincial infirmaries belong to it. We ballot for our hon. officers. They did me the honour this year of electing me as President. We have an Hon. Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary. We meet at different infirmaries every quarter, and discuss questions of interest. As an Association we have on different matters approached the L.G.B. by deputation and letter. We inaugurated an annual dinner last October, and were honoured by the company of Sir Arthur Downes and all our principal inspectors.

Our Association has been so successful that the Superintendent Nurses in "unrecognized" places are now preparing to form an Association which shall affiliate with ours, so that we hope presently that nearly all the Poor Law infirmaries in England and Wales will be united together in a Society working for their mutual interests.

I should like to say in conclusion how much to be deprecated are the comparisons so often made between hospital and infirmary trained nurses, generally to the detriment of the latter.

The ambition of any nurse should be to excel and be a credit to her Training School, whatever it may be. If we in Poor Law are behind and not up to the mark, let us find out our weak points and raise our status. The chronic and infirm and helpless cases, instead of being put off with inferior nurses, need the very best, both in character, culture, and skill. Let us continually raise our standard, and remove any slur or suggested depreciation with regard to infirmary-trained nurses. To my mind, nothing will do this so much as State Registration for Trained Nurses. That is why for years I have ardently desired and tried to work for this object. It would be a great act of justice to Poor Law nurses. If they are worthy, they can become registered nurses, and do away with any invidious distinctions. I feel that they are worthy, and will prove themselves most honoured members of the profession to which we are so proud to belong.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, has received the following letter from Miss Elsie M. Chung, a trained Chinese nurse, who it was hoped would be able to attend the Cologne Congress:

MY DEAR MISS DOCK,—Since reading the interesting accounts of the Congress I am more than sorry I could not be present. Thank you so much for your letter. I shall look forward to seeing the reports and By-laws that you mention in your letter.

I wish we could start a Society of Nurses here, but it will take time. I shall certainly hope to be present at the next Congress in San Francisco in 1915. Last December I had the honour of nursing President Yuan Shih Kai and I was able to tell him a great deal about the nursing profession. He was much interested. He is generously meeting the expenses of the publication of my translation of a book on nursing, which will be on sale I hope very soon within the next three weeks. He has also promised that I shall represent China at the next Congress.

We have been very busy in the hospital and both in and out-patients increase. Five of our nurses graduated three weeks ago, which is always a great pleasure to us.

Even with our tiny work a great deal can be done. My kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely,
ELSIE M. CHUNG.

Tientsin, China.

It will be a great pleasure to meet Miss Chung, and to hear about her work when we fogather at San Francisco.

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