

THE ROYAL ORGANIZER OF TRAINED NURSING IN SWEDEN.

We briefly mentioned last week the death of the Queen Dowager of Sweden, but it was impossible to refer adequately to her great interest in nursing, or her influence on the standards of training in Sweden.

Those who attended the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in London in 1909 will remember that a contingent of charming Swedish nurses took part in its deliberations. The attendance of this contingent was greatly due to the personal interest of Queen Sophia, who acted as patron of the Committee (formed of representatives of the different nursing institutions), organizing the delegation, Her Majesty was kept informed of the proceedings of the Congress, and, on the return of the delegates to Sweden, Miss Thérèse Tamm, the leader of the party, gave to her, by her request, a detailed account of the proceedings. It was because of the deep interest shown by Her Majesty in the Congress that the International Council of Nurses offered for her acceptance a specially bound copy of the transactions of the London Meeting.

Again, at Queen Sophia's express desire Sister Emmy Lindhagen, President of the Swedish Nurses' Association, who, with other fraternal delegates from Sweden, took part in the Cologne Congress, attended before her Majesty on her return to Stockholm to give her information concerning the Congress, in which Her Majesty expressed great interest.

Queen Sophia's practical interest in nursing had then been of long standing. Her Majesty fully realized the need for a more effective organization of nursing, and the importance of securing the services of educated women as trained nurses. She had long cherished a desire to provide regular instruction in nursing based on Christian principles, for pupils drawn from the educated classes.

In 1884 a small training home was opened in Stockholm, under the direction of a Swedish lady trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, the practical training being given at the Sabatsberg Hospital. The work flourished, and the need of an institution for training nurses on a larger and more independent scale resulted in the foundation in 1889 of a hospital by the King and Queen, called the Sophiahemmet. From the first her Majesty was President of the Board of Direction, by whom a very thorough course of training, extending over three years, is demanded of the pupils.

Queen Sophia also took a great interest in the Society, bearing her name, for nursing in the Army and Navy, and again it was on her initiative that the first nurses were employed for soldiers in camp in 1905. It was also

owing to a gift from herself and the late King that three large sanatoria for consumption were founded.

The Society for Nursing in the Army and Navy is under the patronage of the Crown Princess. It is sincerely to be hoped that she will continue the interest in nursing organization on which the great and good Queen, now passed to her rest, had so beneficent an influence.



THE LATE QUEEN SOPHIA OF SWEDEN.

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