

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

A NURSING NOTE FROM NORWAY.

Since the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland took the initiative last December and forwarded a Memorandum on the Standard of Nursing for Sick and Wounded, to the Secretary of State for War, a Memorandum which was published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on January 30th last, we have received many letters from various parts of the world approving of its suggestions. First from the United States of America came a resolution, supported by the eminent representatives of 25,000 certificated and mostly registered American nurses. Then followed a communication from the President of the Dutch Nurses' Association, informing us that the Memorandum had been translated into Dutch, and brought to the notice of members of Parliament and others responsible for the care of the wounded in Holland.

Miss Grace Wilson, Principal Matron in the Australian Army Nursing Service, 1st Military District, wrote from Brisbane quite recently that "Australian nurses have the deepest sympathy with their British Sisters over the matter," and this week we have received a communication from Christiania from Miss Bergljot Larsson, the President of Norsk Sykepleierskeforbund (the Norwegian Nurses' Association), in which she writes:—

It is with great interest I have read your protest against having unskilled women to take over work and standing in the nursing profession. Some ladies and gentlemen of the Society in Norway planned and started short courses in nursing for women, and all our hospitals, nursing and small sick houses are run over with young girls.

Sykepleien, our nursing paper, has been fighting against these courses in every way since June last, and at last I have translated your resolution. . . . It has been a hot fight, with writings from all parts. The doctor of the Armies (the man who planned the thing), doctors for and against, nurses all against, and the ladies, Samaritans themselves, who are very cross that we dare to tell them the truth.

Our Association, Norsk Sykepleierske-forbund, gets on very well. We started two and a-half years ago with 44 nurses, now we are 400 active members (trained nurses), and the public see the good of us, and we have 500 members without any vote, only giving us two shillings a year to help us. After some fighting we got the right to have a nursing office of our own (bureau) in Christiania, and now we send nurses all over Norway. We work now to get a nurses' house (home) in contact with our office.

Our paper, *Sykepleien*, started with 120 advertisers, now we have 1,500. I thought it would interest you to hear a little about us. I am still the president, editor and lady superintendent of the bureau. I am glad to tell you we have done what we promised to do at the International Nurses' Congress at Cologne. We work for the good of the profession and get on.

Sister Agnes Karll called for help, and five of our nurses are working at Bielitz and Stembefg in Osterreich. Now I am going to ask your help and advice about two nurses who are very anxious to offer their help at the West front. They know English, of course. They would love to work with the English nurses, and are very keen on coming out. We should all like to go and help, but we are not allowed to go away, many of us, because we are at the disposal of the Norwegian Army. May we soon get peace, that we may meet again at a happy congress.

We fear it may be difficult to help these Norwegian nurses, as owing to increased and very necessary restrictions in connection with military nursing by the War Office, nurses from neutral countries are not now being encouraged to offer for active service.

British nurses will remember, however, with gratitude that our Queen Maud of Norway sent a most kind telegram of greeting to Sister Haswell and the party of nurses passing through her husband's kingdom, on their return from their somewhat risky experiences at Brussels in the early days of the war, and they will appreciate the kindness of feeling which has prompted their Norwegian sisters to offer help in time of need.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

We are glad to know that Branches of the above Association are springing up all over South Africa, and there are signs that at last professional co-operation for the general good will result. Mrs. H. C. Hessenaur, of East London, has been elected General Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. She was trained at the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, so no doubt has the necessary knowledge of what is required throughout the Union, and is in sympathy with its nursing needs.

We hear nurses in South Africa are eagerly offering their skilled help to the troops on active service; thus we are deprived of their help at home.

Well-trained Colonial nurses have valuable qualities to bring to the service of the Empire at the present time, and their work is much appreciated.

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