

are to play in the establishment, staffing and adequate carrying on of hospital aid for China's needy millions.

The President of the Association then thanked those guests on behalf of the Association, for the honour of their presence and for their inspiring words. Refreshments and a pleasant social hour were included in the programme of the afternoon.

Thursday morning was given to the hearing of three papers. The first was on "Social Life, Recreation and Care of Nurses in Training." Miss Powell the writer, is one of the "veteran" nurses in Peking, to quote her own words, though by no means ancient in years. Out of her rich experience, she gave many helpful hints on the keeping of our young nurses happy and healthy. The proper care of their bodies as to cleanliness, hygienic clothing, regular and liberal feeding, well-fitting shoes, sleep, special care on night duty, and many other phases were touched upon.

Throughout the Conference, after the reading of each paper or giving of an address, an open discussion was held, this often being quite—if not fully—as helpful as the address itself. All were urged to take part in the giving and asking of information; in this manner, the solving of many problems came to light.

The second paper dealt with the "Discipline for Women Nurses," by Miss Baldwin (of Foochow). The status of our work to-day over that of fourteen years ago was vividly portrayed. Miss Baldwin urges that, with the new nurses, during their first six months, the crucial and important period in their training, the superintendents give themselves utterly to working personally side by side with them. Their standard of work during these first six months will determine it for life. Let your first lecture to them be on the requirements for a good nurse, and then live it and teach it day by day, from a moral, physical and spiritual standpoint. From your second and third year nurses, you yourself may learn much; but your first year nurses should learn your way of doing things first. Beware of understaffing your hospital, lest you be forced to lower the grade of your work since the press of the sick about us is so great that it is difficult to control the number of in-patients."

Miss Tomlinson (of Anking) presented a paper on the "Discipline of Men Nurses." "In my estimation," she says, "sex matters little in the matter of discipline. Be the nurse man or woman, what you demand and cease not to insist on, that you will get. But the more obvious the velvet glove, so long as there is absolutely no doubt as to what it contains, the better for everyone. The people the men nurses respect, like all the rest of us, are those who make them toe the mark. After all, I do feel at times that I can recognise here and there among my pupils a glimmer of understanding of the fact that the stricter the hospital discipline and the greater the demands made upon its pupils, the more credit ultimately belongs to the pupil holding the diploma of the school."

(To be continued.)

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

LETTER XI.—SOCIAL SERVICE (POLICE-WOMEN) IN PUEBLO DE LA REINA DE LOS ANGELES (TOWN OF THE QUEEN OF THE ANGELS).

DEAR MADAM,—This beautiful city on the Californian coast, which lies about 300 miles south of San Francisco, is busy, up-to-date and growing at a phenomenal rate. It is too busy even to give the necessary time to calling itself by its original old Spanish name. All has been cut away except the last two words, by which it is now known to the world. No doubt it is a necessity of modern life; however, one cannot but feel a lingering regret, because the full title recalls the romance of its past history. In order to enjoy thoroughly a visit to California, and the journey thither, over the beautiful Santa Fé trail, it goes without saying that one must know something of its romantic history. Those who have not read about the Spanish conquest of California will wonder at all the Spanish names that point to that fact. Nothing but the names now remains to remind us of that era, except the presence of a few dark-skinned people (Mexicans), whose blood is mixed with that of their early conquerors.

Like the beautiful town of Riverside, Los Angeles has semi-tropical vegetation, and abounds in groves of oranges and lemons and other beautiful trees and flowers, but unlike that lovely garden city, "it has not preserved much of the original atmosphere of the old Spanish town." The picturesque element has had to give place to the commercial requirements of a prosperous modern city. It has, however, retained something of the odour of sanctity, because just beyond its boundaries, but connected by a good street-car service, lies Pasadena, where the Mission of San Gabriel stands, a monument of the past in good preservation; one of the twenty-one famous old Spanish missions.

The Social Service of Los Angeles is in keeping with the rest of its progressive work, and it was my privilege to see something of it. Among the ladies who met and welcomed us upon our arrival was one of the policewomen, and she kindly gave me facilities for visiting the city jail. She was unable to accompany me herself as she was about to leave for her holiday. I was very anxious to learn something of the penal system—in respect of women and children—in a State which has the proud distinction of being the first to add women to its Police Department, and Los Angeles is notable as being the first city to adopt this necessary reform. There are nine policewomen now employed in the city, and the Chief of Police recommends that the Force shall be increased by five more. Mrs. Alice Stebbens Wells has not only been longest in the force, but was the first policewoman in the United States, and has done invaluable work. In twenty-four cities in North America they are employed, including three in Canada, namely, Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa;

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