

gives an interesting sketch of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena:—

"From 1910, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elena, whose name now in Italy is synonymous with the protection of the sick, and through the initiative of a noble lady, the late Princess Emilia Doria Pamphily (sister of the present Duke of Newcastle), a Committee was composed in Rome whose programme was the reform of nursing in the public Hospital, to be obtained by means of a new organisation of women of high professional standing, similar to that which, in the Anglo-Saxon countries, has radically systematised, on bases of scientific seriousness and social justice, the great question of Hospital Nursing.

The first group of this organisation, which then could not be formed with Italian women, was brought over from England by the above-mentioned committee, and was composed of fully-trained English Nurses, among whom were Miss Dorothy A. Snell (who from 1910 has been Matron of the training school) and Miss Ada M. Whyte, late Assistant Matron.

The English Nurses adopted the Italian cause as their own, so far as to dedicate themselves entirely to our soldiers during the war at the front, together with the Italian Nurses of the School, and obtaining the highest testimonials. The gold medal was conferred both on the School and on the Matron.

Thus gradually, as the young Italian Nurses received Certificates from the School and assumed posts as Staff Nurses and Sisters in the wards nursed by the School at the Policlinico, a new kind of organisation arose in the midst of the public Hospitals based on hierarchy (authority), on the lines of Trained Nursing as practised in England, America, and other countries.

Whilst being an advantage to Hospital service, the "Queen Elena's Training School" turned out professional nurses of indisputable technical and moral seriousness who should have found posts of authority in other fields of Nursing and in public Hospitals (thus propagating, as is natural, the training and reform).

It was therefore a continual defence on the part of the Committee for the interests of the sick patients in Public Hospitals, bringing the question before the public and the Government. This defence found a staunch supporter from the very beginning of the Training School in the Minister of Public Health, Comm. Lutraio, and aroused the interest of the Government so far as to appoint a commission for the reform of the Hospitals, of which the late-lamented Hon. Bertolini (one profoundly versed in the matter) was President, and the project of a law was discussed, and was to be again discussed in the Senate House. Meanwhile, the Italian Red Cross, on revising its after-war programme, found it just to co-operate in the increase of Hospital reform, and entered to form part of the Committee for Queen Elena's Training School at the moment of its erection into an Incorporated Society.

Her Sovereign Majesty, always awake to the greatest problems of social charity and justice, has

always, as Honorary President of the Institution, represented the high tutelage of the School, and recently gave proof of her wish for its development by the munificent donation of 100,000 lire, to be used for the enlarging of the Home.

The Incorporated Society for the Queen Elena's Training School at the Policlinico Hospital is now composed of the following persons:—

Comm. Lutraio	} Director-Gen. of Public Health.
Professor Comm. Torti, Director of the Poli- clinico	
Baron Comm. Mazzolani Comm. Corelli	} For the United Hospitals.
Marchesa Targiani Guinti Professor Ilvento	
Comm. Lavia	} As Representatives of the Italian Red Cross- For the Home Office.
Donna Maria Maraini Guerrieri Gonzaga	
Contessa Segri Sartorio Signora Emilia Dalla Vedova	} Members of the Committee of Promoters.
Madame Edith Boselli ...	
Prof. Raffaelli Bastianelli Hon. Mario Cingolani ...	
Hon. Luigi Rossi	
Professor Vittorio Ascoli Commanda Giuseppe Boselli, R.N.	
Avv. Bruno Martini	

At the first meeting, which took place last Saturday at the General Direction of Public Health, the following distribution of charges was voted:—

Donna Maria Maraini Guerrieri Gonzaga,
President;
Professor Raffaelli Bastianelli, Vice-President;
Marchesa de Targiani Guinti;
Baron Mazzolani;
Commander Boselli.

The programme of the Incorporated Society was summed up and ratified by the President with the faith and energy of one who works for a cause of social justice. We wish the new Incorporated Society, which has been so many times defended in these columns, a success proportionate to its faith.

We have watched the growth in popularity in Italy of this movement for many years, and we must all feel proud in that it is an Englishwoman who has, with such admirable understanding and patience, and under very great difficulties, brought the organisation of Queen Elena's School of Nursing in Rome to such wonderful success. The Mother House in Rome is already sending out its highly efficient Sisters to inaugurate Nursing Schools in other Italian cities. So we may hope the good work will grow, until it spreads throughout the land. Health, so priceless and all important to the status of a people, is the basis from which national progress and success must spring in the future. The healthiest nations must inevitably come out on top.

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