

encountered their troubles with the greatest patience and long-suffering, while a faculty for keeping smiling had been shown on all hands, and in these and other ways there had been brought out those qualities of self-sacrificing endurance for which the nursing profession was well known.

Dr. Knight emphasised the fact that any woman in the city who was expecting to become a mother, whatever her circumstances, could obtain a fully trained midwife from the Home at any time.

The competent nursing staff, under the direction of Miss Brooks, held a very high position among institutions of its kind, and was supposed to be the second largest in the kingdom. It was also recognised by the London authorities as an excellent training school for midwives, as proved by the number of pupils sent to the institution for that purpose.

The Mayor made the practical suggestion that subscribers should promise to double their subscriptions for a term of years, and announced his own intention of adopting that course, and perhaps of doing a little more.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, has received several invitations from National Councils of Nurses in Europe, to pay a visit of inspection to their various headquarters, see what progress is being made, and make suggestions for extending the usefulness of the Councils, both from an educational, social and political viewpoint. As the initiator and leader of the State Registration Movement in England for so many years, the nurses who have not yet attained legal status in Europe are anxious to have from her a historical survey of the difficulties to be faced, and the best methods whereby they can be overcome.

Such a tour would naturally be of intense interest to any pioneer of Nursing Organisation, and may—who knows?—come to pass in the near future.

In the meanwhile members of the National Council of Nurses in Great Britain and Ireland should carefully study reports published in the *B.J.N.* from time to time, of the efforts and progress of the newly affiliated foreign Councils, so that when the next International Meeting takes place at Helsingfors in Finland in 1925, they will be well in touch with the aspirations of, and progress being made by, their colleagues all over the world.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN NURSES

(ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ITALIANA TRA INFERMIERE)
AND NURSING CONDITIONS IN ITALY.

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES,
COPENHAGEN, MAY, 1922.

Presented by SIGNORINA M. VALENZANO, Delegate.

LADIES,—May I be allowed to offer most cordial greetings in the name of their Italian colleagues to the trained nurses of all civilised nations gathered here to-day, and to express our feeling of admiration and gratitude towards the great and powerful organisations represented here, which are willing to accept into the International Council of Nurses this young National Association of ours, still small, but which makes up for unavoidably limited numbers by great faith and a firm determination to overcome all difficulties and to bring nursing and nursing education in Italy rapidly up to the highest standards.

As our colleagues so kindly take an interest in us, thus giving us their moral support in the great work we have undertaken, they may care to hear a short account of how our National Association was founded and why, what conditions it found, what work has been done so far, and what are our plans for the future.

The National Association of Italian Nurses was first thought of in 1918, and was a result of the great war which had caused a large number of educated Italian women, rapidly trained in the elements of nursing by the Italian Red Cross, to be employed as Volunteer Nurses in the military hospitals, where they were able to notice, in the midst of the most excellent Italian Medical Service, the almost complete absence of trained nursing, both in the military and civil hospitals.

After the practical experience gained, some of these volunteer nurses gathered together to talk things over, and decided that nursing in Italy required improvement, and that it would be well to call upon the few hundreds of really fully-trained nurses existing to form a National Association like those belonging to many other nations, in order to take concerted action and devise means to bring about a reform. They also decided to help the movement by entering the Association in the capacity of lay helping members.

At this stage in the proceedings we found an invaluable friend in Miss Mary Gardner, R.N., of the American Red Cross, Director of Nursing in the Tuberculosis Commission, who was already helping us to organise courses in public health nursing, and who advised us as to rules, and the movement was happy enough to gain the complete approval, support, and Royal patronage of Her Majesty Queen Helen of Italy, a most distinguished volunteer nurse and generous patroness of all serious efforts to better hygienic or sanitary conditions or relieve suffering.

The writer of this report sent out the first call to the trained nurses, and they soon flocked to

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