

put down their names, together with a good many Volunteer Nurses. On February 16th, 1919, in Rome, the National Association was legally founded with the assistance of a lawyer, and the first Council of Directors was elected.

To this report is appended a list of the members of that first Council, and also of the members of the Central Branch Councils appointed for this year 1922.

The Association grew apace, and it soon became possible, while keeping headquarters in Rome, to found branches for several "regions" of Italy (a region comprises several provinces). The Lazio Branch has an office in Rome, the Tuscan Branch in Florence, the Lombard Branch in Milan, and it is hoped soon to found the Piedmont Branch in Turin, the Emilia Branch in Bologna, and the Branch for the Redeemed Provinces in Trieste.

We can now say that practically all the trained nurses of Italy have joined their National Association, including the public health nurses trained in the special courses started by the American Red Cross in 1919; and also a good number of Volunteer Nurses, the latter in the capacity of lay helping members.

The Association has its own Sick Benefit and Pensions Fund, of which a branch is attached to each branch of the Association, and each branch has also a registry office for finding work for the members and for supplying private nurses to the public. These offices, of which each one is managed by a fully-trained nurse, have proved most useful.

Before speaking of the other forms of work done by the Association, it will be well to say something of the most complicated question of Nursing in Italy, that it may be clearly understood what this Association has to deal with. To put it in a nutshell, the very large majority of hospital attendants in Italy are not trained at all in the modern sense, and many are not trainable, so that it will be a slow business to get modern methods introduced into all the hospitals.

For centuries nursing in practically all hospitals has been in the hands of the religious Orders, mostly of the nuns, and as there are not enough nuns to do all the work, they have always been helped by lay subordinates, men and women.

The nuns have excellent discipline, and are most devoted nurses, but modern methods of training have never penetrated into Italian convents, and some of the Orders recruit the nuns for the hospitals among the most uneducated classes, while the lay subordinates are even less educated and trained.

The advent of Socialism and free-thought in Italy has caused the nuns to be removed from a few hospitals and their places to be taken by their former subordinates, or other persons of the same type, who have been given at the best some very hurried and superficial teaching, so while moral damage has been done, no technical advantage has been gained.

Of course there are exceptions, some few hospitals have trained nurses, while a special law provides that a training school be attached to all

large mental asylums. Some of these schools give very good results.

The Society of Hospital Directors, in their periodical meetings, have repeatedly recommended that real training schools be attached to all large hospitals, and a Royal Commission was appointed in 1918 by Signor Orlando's ministry to look into the whole question of nursing. This Commission came to the same conclusion, and drafted a Bill which Professor Lutrario, the Director-General of Public Health, has presented to Parliament, and which will facilitate the founding of training schools and provide for a State Examination and State Diploma of Nursing, but so far we have only three large training schools attached to large hospitals, and a few private training schools attached to private hospitals.

The largest training school is "Queen Helen's School," attached to the great Policlinic Hospital at Rome, which was founded in 1910, thanks to the generosity and interest of the Queen of Italy, of the late Princess Doria, of the late Minister Bertolini, and of the most enlightened Director-General of Public Health, Professor Albert Lutrario, a real friend and supporter of trained nursing. This school has an English Matron, Miss Dorothy Snell, and some English Sisters, the nurses and pupils do all the nursing in several large wards of the hospital, while in others the old methods still prevail. By the annexation of Trieste to Italy we have gained another training school attached to the Civil Hospital of that city, while this Association has gained many and most welcome new members in the trained nurses of Trieste.

And quite lately a new training school has been opened at the large new Hospital at Sampierdarena (Genoa) through the efforts of the Director, Professor Ernest Skultecky. The Matron of this school is Signorina Maria Sforza, trained at the "San Gregorio" training school at Rome by the English nuns, who are all fully-trained nurses.

The "San Gregorio" is one of the private training schools mentioned. It is attached to the British Hospital and was founded by Miss Hanbury some years ago. Also the "Blue Cross" school of Naples, founded by Princess Strongoli, is attached to a private hospital, and so is the "Princess Iolanda" of Milan, now taken over by the Italian Red Cross, which is doing all that is possible to further the cause of nursing in Italy under the most active President, Senator Ciruolo, helped as Delegate for Nursing by the acting President-General of this Association, Irene di Targiam.

Other schools, now unfortunately closed, but which we hope will open again, are the "Queen of Italy," at Florence, founded by a committee of ladies and medical men, and the "Victor de Marchi," of Milan, founded by Signorina Adelina de Marchi, a great benefactress, while other supporters of nursing, such as Miss Turton and Signora Celli, a German lady married to an Italian, founded schools without any Home for the pupils, and which did not live long.

It will be well to mention here the schools for

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