

THE NORWEGIAN COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE INTER-
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES,
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PRESENTED BY SISTER BERGLIOT LARSSON.

The historical development of sick nursing in Norway (2,649,775 inhabitants) is more or less similar to the development in other countries. We got our first training school when the Norwegian Institute of Nursing Sisters was established in 1868. It is planned after the pattern of the Mother Institute at Kaiserswerth. Miss Cathinka Guldberg was trained at Kaiserswerth and became Norway's first Nursing Sister.

In 1864 was established the Norwegian Red Cross Society, which, in 1893, started its own school. Several private institutions and societies interested in philanthropic and social work took up sick nursing on their programme. Of these the Norwegian Women's Health Association was founded in 1896 and opened a training school in 1898, while the Methodist Nursing Sisters' Home was established in 1898. These institutions followed the German model with the erection of small nursing homes, generally quite independent of, and situated some distance from, the teaching establishments, hospitals and clinics. In these homes the young girls came under such influences that they became willing and self-sacrificing workers in the field of sick nursing. Religion and ethics were important subjects of instruction. Less importance was attached to the securing of good teaching materials, and the nurses themselves had little or no influence on the planning of the course of instruction. These homes and schools could not in the long run meet the demand for nurses, and in 1900 a couple of our large municipal infirmaries started schools, not out of interest for the nursing profession, but because the reform would help to secure cheap assistance, and the instruction would render that assistance more serviceable and disciplined. The same practice was introduced as had been adopted by the institutions, namely, that of securing the pupils for several years, and the natural result was the development of the three-year school in these infirmaries, thanks to the influence of the head nurses, first at Bergen's municipal infirmaries in 1898 and a little later at Christiania municipal infirmaries. For several years the sick-nurses were employed exclusively in the hospitals and a number of nursing sisters as parish nurses. The work of these latter consisted chiefly in helping the clergyman in his parish work and in looking after the poor. At present the sick-nurses, in addition to being employed in hospitals, sanatoriums, homes for consumptives, for the aged and for children, in district-nursing and as private nurses, are also engaged in the social work, which in our country is being greatly developed. In the social field the work is mainly in connection with

the local Boards of Health, in the districts as visiting nurses, in the schools and in inspection in the different departments for tuberculosis, epidemic and venereal diseases, house hygiene and care of children, unmarried mothers and infants, &c. In the municipal office for pensions to mothers and old people the inspector and her assistants are trained nurses. The sick clubs (Sickness Insurance) have nurses at the policlinics and as visiting nurses. Some of the factories have nurses in their service and in the office of the Female Inspector of Factories the inspector's assistants are nurses. Moreover, they are also working in private associations, such as the Society for the Care of Released Prisoners, in missionary work, &c.

The Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses, the national organisation for trained nurses, was founded in 1912 by 44 sick-nurses, representing the different groups and branches of the nursing profession. Its first president was the founder, Sister Bergliot Larsson. The Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses was formed in order that the nurses might combine to safeguard their profession and its rights, as well as to free it from the many parasites who were working as sick-nurses without having any training.

The objects of the Council are: (a) To form a rallying-point for the Norwegian nursing profession and to secure a better combination amongst trained nurses; (b) to safeguard their economic and professional interests; (c) to work for the development of the nursing profession and for the improvement of sick-nursing on the whole. The Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses at present numbers 1,150 ordinary members. The headquarters of the Council are in Christiania, but in every county the members form their local association, which again elects its county committee, with which the governing body must consult regarding the more important matters of interest for the association.

The leadership of the whole organisation lies in the hands of the governing body, consisting of seven members, whose task includes, in addition to the organising and administrative leadership, also the admission of new members. The rules for admission are very strict. The applicant is furnished with a form to be filled up, which, besides demanding information about the circumstances, education and examinations passed by the applicant before her training as a nurse began, also requires exhaustive details as to the individual applicant's development and work as a sick-nurse. Together with this form, duly filled up, the applicant must furnish a certificate that she has completed her training as a sick-nurse, as well as other recommendations. The governing body addresses inquiries regarding the applicant to the head nurses and doctors at the schools and subsequent places of work, and only after satisfactory replies have been obtained from these persons will admission to the association be granted and the nurse acquire the right to bear the badge of the Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses, after having signed the rules of the association. The badge is intended to be a proof of ability and of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)