

MISS NEWTON expressed her thanks and her willingness to act as Hon. Vice-President. She did not think that the members of the European Council really hoped for relations with the International Council of Nurses quite so soon.

The President had let fall observations which implied that she believed the Nurse Training School in Serbia to be a very perfect one. Well, one might find that a nurse had divested herself of her stockings, and removed her cap, and discipline might leave something to be desired, yet these nurses had grasped some thing which it might be supposed they would not gather for years. Thus she had lost one of her best pupils through illness. In Serbia it is the custom for the great friend of the deceased to speak the Address at the grave side, and this was what her friend said, in a moving voice: "Rosa, can it be possible you are no longer with us, that your room is empty? When we came to the wards, you it was who urged us to continue our work; and we make an oath over your grave that the work which you began we will carry on through our beloved Matron." Now, construction was there and discipline was there.

The CHAIRMAN thought that Miss Newton was showing the way up, if even a few people could reach that stage. It was better to change a soul than a building, and much more constructive.

THE HON. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR RUMANIA.

The President said:—

MISS ANSCOMBE.—We hope you will accept election as Hon. Vice-President for Rumania in the International Council of Nurses. For the modern nurse revolutions are the most ordinary happenings. We hope that by 1925 you will have brought about the necessary changes, and that the nurses of Rumania will be eligible to take their place as a group in the International Council of Nurses."

MISS ANSCOMBE (Bucharest) said that as the Director of Training School work, she worked in close co-operation with the Direction. In Bucharest there had been a school in existence for ten years under the direction of a medical woman. It was difficult to go into a country where a school existed and to start one on modern lines. Already changes had been accomplished and the directrice realised that she had not come to make difficulties, but to give help to her. She described the condition of the nurses' quarters and expressed her admiration of Rumanian girls who came for training under such conditions. She explained that the Sanitary Service and its director changed if the government changed. The present Sanitary Service had passed a law that no nurse was to be allowed to accept a post in any institution unless she possessed a two years' diploma.

This year she had been able to replace the foreign superintendents by graduates of the school, and next year she believed that a term of three years' training would come into force. It was a great problem to get the profession to realise that theoretical training was not everything, and to get the nurses to realise the proper duties of a nurse. The moral difficulty was also a great one.

THE CHAIRMAN expressed admiration for these Rumanian girls, and for the women who left their country and their training schools to teach them what nursing was. All honour to them.

MISS NOYES described the work being done by the other Hon. Vice-Presidents appointed. She stated that the new school at Warsaw developed by the American Red Cross was not financed by it but by a rich American nurse, who did not make a single condition in connection with the gift, but was willing to finance it for several years more on a gradually decreasing scale.

THE CHAIRMAN expressed regret that all the newly-appointed Vice-Presidents were unable to be present.

#### A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING EDUCATION.

PROFESSOR ISABEL M. STEWART said that Professor M. A. Nutting (Chairman of the Committee on Nursing Education) was greatly interested in the work of the International Council of Nurses, and each letter showed that she was thinking a great deal about it, and that her fertile mind was at work. The Council's activities had for a time been suspended, including those of the Committee on Nursing Education, but she believed that Miss Nutting would undertake its reconstruction and would put this through in a very active way.

The Session then terminated.

#### VISIT TO THE FINSEN HOSPITAL.

A most interesting visit was then paid to the Finsen Hospital where the visitors were received by Dr. Lomholdt, who gave the following address, and conducted them round this world-famed hospital, showing its beneficent work in operation.

##### Address by Dr. Lomholdt.

This Institute, which deals chiefly with different kinds of light therapy, is called Finsen's Institute for light therapy after its inventor, Niels Finsen, who was the first man to take up the idea of using the light for treatment of different disorders.

Before that time the light had only interested doctors as a producer of different disorders of the skin—light dermatitis, carcinoma, &c.

Finsen has acquired this right of having his name put in the forefront of this Institute with the most obvious right.

For many years he fought a hard fight for his new ideas against the prejudices of almost all his colleagues. And the fight was especially hard to him because he was rather a sensitive and modest character, deeply influenced by all kinds of critics and of sarcasms.

Moreover, he had very feeble health, due to a serious heart illness, that had checked his work in the university to a considerable extent, and had prevented him from obtaining more than an ordinary degree in his examinations. Also he was of a rather advanced age, as he passed his final examination at thirty years.

It was, however, just this disease and the debility that it caused him which first drew his

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)