

Nursing Section of the League of Red Cross Societies, said that the question of what Red Cross Nursing was must be examined. It must be considered whether the nurses were enrolled by the Red Cross, or really trained by it. In four countries they were of the enrolled type, and in 35 the Red Cross was training members of the nursing profession. In many countries the training given under the Red Cross was the only training procurable. The Red Cross Training Schools were financed by lay boards. In half the countries of the world the Red Cross was doing, and must do, this work, to ignore this fact was impossible. Red Cross workers were on almost a higher level than those trained otherwise. Nursing was recruited from them. In regard to the Schools of Volunteer Nurses the Red Cross had prestige and influence, and got the best women into the profession. The League had a secretariat; and a Nursing Board of six nurses and an Advisory Committee were to be appointed by the Director-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The International Council of Nurses was a recognised authority on nursing standards, and it should be equally eager to recognize the work of the League. The need existed for the International Council of Nurses to undertake an aggressive policy in the backward countries. Requests from Matrons for information on various matters were constantly received, and required answers. There was at present no organisation of nurses whose job that was. She could not escape the conviction that there was need for a strong international organisation to undertake this work.

In May, when the Baroness Mannerheim was in Paris, she had seen Sir Claude Hill (Director-General of the League of Red Cross Societies), together with herself (Miss Olmsted), and he had offered office space for the Executive Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses in Paris, together with demographic and translating facilities. Paris was a very central situation for the purpose. In accepting this as a loan, the office of the I.C.N. would in no way be under the direction of the League.

The League had picture films, it had workers visiting in the different countries. Bedford College had graduated 48 of its workers, and soon it would have nurses in every country in the world.

The question arose as to a recognised tribunal in nursing matters. Such an Association as the International Council of Nurses could do much to establish nursing associations where none existed, and it could have the co-operation of the League Secretariat, or it could leave this work to organisations outside. There seemed to be a fear that the League had some sinister design on nursing standards. She was unable to see the working danger to the International Council of Nurses as some feared if they worked together. Further, Red Cross Nursing was one of the vitally important nursing problems which demanded attention. A pressing need existed for the International Council of Nurses to organise or promote the organisation of associations of nurses in various countries.

BARONESS MANNERHEIM said that when the meeting to which Miss Olmsted had referred took place at the League headquarters, she never understood that any offer was made to the International Council of Nurses. She understood that the League would be glad to consider an application from the International Council of Nurses if it asked for funds and office room.

#### Discussion.

PROFESSOR ISABEL M. STEWART said it was a dreadful thing to be a teacher, because one got into the habit of making notes during a speech. She would like to ask, were all these facts correct, were Miss Olmsted's conclusions justified? There seemed to her to be so many statements not justified by facts.

She would like to ask, for example, whether Miss Olmsted was right in saying that in 35 countries of the world the Red Cross trained the professional nurses, if so, what kind of training did it give? Those people who claimed to be "professional" despised thoroughly trained nurses, and regarded them as "commercial" nurses.

Then in the backward countries the "Religious" undertook nursing, and in many others there were missionary nurses at work in nurse training. Could we say that in Cuba, the Philippines, China, India, nursing was in the hands of the Red Cross? In Japan this was the case, and there nursing was militarised. In some countries it was promoted by the Civil Government, or by medical men. Was that entirely ineffective? We must be quite fair to other groups.

Volunteer nursing under the Red Cross was disappearing because of economic conditions and Red Cross nurses were now often paid. She wanted to believe the best, and she believed the group with which Miss Olmsted was working was doing fine work, but were we really justified in saying that nursing would progress only so far as the Red Cross promoted it, in half the countries of the world. Compare Japan and China. The work in China, which was not under the Red Cross was done on sounder lines, and the women of the country were getting interested. In parts of South America also nursing was being developed by missionary enterprise.

Miss Olmsted had said it was impossible to ignore the Red Cross. True. But whether uniting closely with it was desirable was another matter.

Then as to Red Cross workers being of a higher social level than that from which professional nurses were drawn. Queens and duchesses were of splendid social standing, and public opinion was enamoured of Royalty in connection with nursing, but that had nevertheless helped to destroy the popular belief in the necessity for high professional standards. Nurses needed sound practical training.

In regard to the adoption of an aggressive policy of promoting standards of nursing education, Miss Stewart pointed out that nursing was a thing of slow growth. When Miss Nightingale wished to raise the standard of nursing she did not start a

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