

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

CONFERENCE AT COPENHAGEN.

(Concluded from page 123.)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1ST.

9.30 a.m.—Morning Session,

MISS CLARA D. NOYES (Director Nursing Service, American Red Cross) presided over the morning session.

Before the proceedings began, MRS. HENNY TSCHERNING, President of the Danish Council of Nurses, offered congratulations to Miss Cecilia Lütken, Matron-in-Chief of the Danish Army Nurse Corps, and President of the Copenhagen Division of the Danish Red Cross. Twenty-five years ago her help had been asked for in a Military Hospital, and she had left the Kommune Hospital with only a small basket, saying that it would take all she required for the two months for which she expected to be away. She had never come back, but had devoted her life since then to the organisation and improvement of Military Nursing. Those present heartily joined in the congratulations offered by Mrs. Tscherning, and Miss NOYES contrasted conditions in America, where it was often difficult to keep head nurses in an institution for one year, with the stability of the nursing service in many hospitals in European countries, where nurses not infrequently spent the whole of their working days in the service of one hospital.

RECENT MOVEMENTS IN THE NURSING WORLD OF U.S.A.

Speaking on the above subject, MISS NOYES referred to two important matters which were a very substantial contribution to the movements in the nursing world:—

(1) Most of those present might, she said, know of the Memorial School at Bagatelle, Bordeaux, in commemoration of American nurses who died in service during the great war. That was thought by their colleagues to be the most conspicuous, the most appropriate, memorial that they could erect, and American nurses had gathered 50,000 dollars, which were held by a Committee in Paris to erect a school in France, which should have all the essentials of the best schools. Their choice had fallen on Bordeaux as the place where the School should be built, where such good work had been done in the School under the direction of Dr. Anna Hamilton.

(2) Army Nurses in the United States of America had been given rank, determining the position of nurses in the Army, with a Superintendent at headquarters. It had taken 15 to 20 years to obtain this rank.

The Red Cross in America looked to the American Nurses' Association for assistance, and its Nursing Service was graded by nurses. When it was thought desirable that the Nurses' Associations should co-operate to have a national headquarters the Red Cross promised financial assist-

ance for a year. In a year's time it was not certain whether the nurses could raise money for the second year, but this was done by increasing the annual dues.

American nurses were now engaged in raising a fund for a memorial in Washington to Jane A. Delano—something which would express nursing from its earliest inception. The required sum of 35,000 dollars was now practically complete.

In regard to education and legislation, there were too many poor schools. There were laws in regard to registration of nurses in 48 States. In South Carolina the nurses were fighting the law with the object of getting nurses placed on the State Board of Examiners. Since women's suffrage had been in force the nurses had found its value in their public work.

REPORT OF THE ROCKEFELLER COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF NURSING AND NURSING EDUCATION.

PROFESSOR ISABEL STEWART (Teachers' College, New York), who was the last speaker, said she was glad Miss Noyes had told those present of some of the difficulties in America. Wherever she had gone she found the impression that everything was easy there.

Speaking of the Report of the Rockefeller Committee, Miss Stewart said that the conditions at the back of it were that there were 1,600 Nursing Schools in the United States of America, some in which the conditions were bad, since every hospital having twelve patients, or a doctor running a private hospital, could start a nurse training school. All hospitals wanted students and depended almost entirely on pupils for the nursing of their patients.

The scarcity of students was acute before the war. There were not enough to do the work of the hospitals. Now the scarcity was greater. The position was that while the colleges were full of young women the hospitals were suffering severely, and taking in as pupil-nurses whoever they could get.

In an influenza epidemic the situation was acute, and doctors advocated diluting the quality of nurses and increasing the quantity. It was stated that 100,000 "sub-nurses" were required, and there were wild orgies in the Press; it was alleged that nurses had their unions, that they were inspired by jealousy, and that the public were suffering because they insisted upon the three years' standard of training.

There was criticism that nurses were over-trained, especially from some medical men. It was also said that the long term was necessary because nurses were not intelligent enough. Much interest in nursing as a career was being taken by well-educated women, but there was dissatisfaction as to the conditions of service. Those responsible for training nurses were met with criticism from outside, from doctors, from within. Their own teachers were critics; they were up against the situation and it had to be met.

The Rockefeller Foundation were willing to help to subsidise nursing education, but naturally wished

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