

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

NURSING IN ROUMANIA.

By MISS ELLA ANSCOMBE, S.R.N.

(Hon. Vice-President for Roumania, International Council of Nurses.)

I came out to Roumania in April, 1921, quite unexpectedly and through Lady Muriel Paget, who at that time was financing a Child Welfare Mission in the country. The Mission was working in conjunction with the "Principele Mircea" Society, which is now doing excellent Child Welfare work, both in Bucarest and in the provincial towns. Her Majesty the Queen of Roumania is the President of the Society, and the active Vice-President is Mme. Lia Bratianu, who is untiring in her zeal in promoting the development of the Child Welfare Centres.

This Society founded a School for the training of Child Welfare Nurses in 1921, and the first pupils were received in the September of that year. The first course was for six months only, in order that the provincial dispensaries might be opened up and staffed by nurses who had some training in the Welfare work. Then the next course was for one year, and now the length of training is for two and a half years, which includes six months' practical work, either in the Children's Hospital or at a Crèche. I worked in this school for one and a half years with four other English sisters, and during that time at least 30 provincial Child Welfare Centres were opened up, all staffed by pupils from our School. Now, in 1924, this Society has 48 dispensaries, five in Bucarest, and the remainder scattered all over the country. Besides this training school, this Society has opened a most successful Training School for Midwives and a Crèche, attached to the Midwifery School. The course of training is for two years, and the pupils are specially prepared for work in the provinces. One of the pupils from the Child Welfare School was given a scholarship by the League of Red Cross Societies, and took the International course at Bedford College, plus six months at Dr. Truby King's Babies' Hospital at Earl's Court, London.

I left this work in September, 1922, and, at the request of the Director of the Civil Hospitals in Bucarest, began my work in the Nurses' Training School attached to the two of the General Hospitals belonging to the civil authorities. I asked the League of Red Cross Societies (to which Society I am attached as a Field Worker), to give me the help of two English sisters, and we began work under the Directrice of the School, Mme. Dr. Kaminsky, in October, 1922. Miss G. F. Foxton, who had previously worked with me here at the Child Welfare Centre, was persuaded to try

her fortunes once more in Roumania, and she has done exceedingly good work at the Coltea Hospital, where half of the pupil-nurses are established. Miss M. Beeton, an International student, worked with me at the Colentina Hospital until April, 1924, and also did very good work. There are in all 100 pupil-nurses, who are drawn chiefly from the peasant class. At present it is exceedingly difficult to persuade girls from the better class families to adopt nursing as a profession. Nursing as a "profession" is not yet fully recognised in this country, but it will be in time, and it must always be borne in mind that Roumania is a comparatively young European country—about seventy years old—and we must not expect the Roumanians to accomplish in two years the complete development of a profession which took England many, many years to develop.

In 1878 Queen Elisabeth of Roumania founded a Nurses' Training School, but it was not attached to a hospital, and the pupils only worked for a few hours a day in one of the hospitals to gain their practical experience. This school still exists, and it is a beautiful building, but the Committee have great difficulty in finding pupils, and owing to the great depreciation of the Lei, have difficulty in keeping it running.

Several other training schools were attempted, but were never established on a solid basis. The school in which we are working was founded in 1913 by the Sanitary Service. It went through very hard times during the great war, and almost ceased to exist, and it was only owing to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the Directrice, Mme. Dr. Kaminsky, that the school survived. Until 1920, the pupil-nurses lived at a Hostel, and went every day to the various civil hospitals for their practical work. In the summer of 1920, a Canadian Mission was organised by Mme. Pantazzi (herself of Canadian origin, and whose husband is a Roumanian), and eight Canadian Nursing Sisters came to Bucarest to develop a Nurses' Training School.

They worked for a year with Mme. Dr. Kaminsky, giving demonstration classes to the pupil-nurses in her school, but did not work with the pupils in the wards. They left the country in the autumn of 1921.

In October, 1920, the Sanitary Service and the Director of the Civil Hospitals conferred together and decided to maintain the school jointly, and half of the pupils were then established in a building at the Coltea Hospital, and the other half in very inferior quarters at the Colentina Hospital.

Until 1921 the course of training had been for one year, since then it has been for two years, and this year we hope to make it three years. The standard for admission is not very high, and the rules for admission are not strictly adhered to, but we have several well-educated girls in last



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF ROUMANIA.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)