

THE DANISH COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The Danish Council of Nurses was established in 1899 with the object of looking after the interests of nurses.

At that time the circumstances in the hospitals were such that the pupils who were engaged at one department remained there until they could obtain a regular employment. A nurse might thus work for many years in the same department, and if she wished to get another employment it would be impossible for her on account of her limited training.

The first task which the Danish Council of Nurses undertook was therefore to provide a rotation for the pupils to the various hospital departments, so that they after the course of three years were able to undertake a situation at other hospitals or sick-houses and render satisfactory service as private nurses and in social work. Supplementary training in mental diseases has been added as a rule for most nurses.

According to the rules now in force nurses who have had a three years' continuous training are admitted as ordinary members. At least eight months of the hospital training must be in a surgical department, and likewise at least eight months in a medical department, or at least sixteen months in a sick-house or hospital which has a medical-surgical department.

Pupils who are under instruction at a hospital acknowledged by the Institute (Council), and who after at least one year's work have a recommendation from the matron, saying that they are qualified for the work, are admitted as special members.

By means of a subsidy from the State, the members are given a supplementary training in various special subjects—such as lying-in nursing, nursing of mental disease, epidemic nursing and sick-room cookery, &c.; moreover, the above-mentioned subsidy from the State enables the nurses to take part

in continuation courses and in studies abroad. The association has six nursing bureaux for private nurses in Denmark and one in Paris, which bureaux employ exclusively members of the Institute (Council) having an all-round training.

The Danish Council of Nurses issues a *Journal of Nursing*, which is published twice a month, and which is sent to all the members free of charge.

In 1901 a sick-club recognised by the State was established: the Sick-Club of the Danish Council of Nurses, and in 1905 in addition to this a burial-club.

The members of the sick-club are allowed to have a recreation after illness not exceeding two months at the convalescent home of the Institute (Council) at Vedbæk, which was erected in 1904, and where the members of the Council can live for very moderate terms.

When the law for invalids was passed in connection with the recognised sick-clubs the laws of the Council were altered accordingly, so that every nurse who wished to be a member of the Danish Council of Nurses also was obliged in the future to be a member of a sick-club

recognised by the State.

In 1912 an Old Age Pension Fund for nurses was established into which ordinary members of the Danish Council

of Nurses are obliged to enter. This club has, according to the principle, "help to help yourself," the object of giving the nurses a chance of saving means to help themselves in old age. It has two accounts, first an ordinary account where the members themselves pay in an amount in proportion to their age on becoming a member of the club, and a special account where the nurse herself as well as other institutions, &c., can put amounts. The members of the Old Age Pension Fund are allowed to apply for legacies which have been left for the benefit of the Fund.

In 1919 the Pension Fund of the Danish Council of Nurses was founded, which is specially intended



FRU. CHARLOTTE NORRIE.
Foundation Member International
Council of Nurses.



FRU. HENNY TSCHERNING,
President Danish Council of Nurses, 1899—1924.

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