

Organisations must have funds. Those dependent upon the public for funds must give to the contributing public a voice in the expenditure of these funds.

Nursing organisations aiming to improve the profession, to strengthen ideals within the profession, must be free of public domination. Funds must be raised by dues, or through gifts from nurses themselves. The organisation must be self-dependent, not self-seeking, giving, not getting, co-operative, not dependent.

The need and responsibility of nursing organisations for co-operation and participation with those National and International groups of women who are working for the spread of health, peace and good citizenship throughout every country in the world is too obvious for comment.

The greatest influence in material affairs is a moral or spiritual force. Unless there is a spiritual foundation of honest purpose and mutual welfare, the house is indeed built on the shifting sands. There is no permanent institution which is not built on something bigger than personal interest.

There is no way to make an organisation last except to make it responsible to those in each generation who are spiritual brothers of the founders.

DISCUSSION.

The Right Material for the Foundation.

Miss Cornelia Petersen, Superintendent of Nurses, Municipal Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark, said it was a great honour to be entrusted to speak on this subject.

When a house was to be built, one first of all looked at the object of the house, and then found the right ground and the right material for the foundation.

When an organisation was to be founded one might look clearly at the object, after that how it must be built to forward that object. The foundation should be of the very best material; and it must be able to stand hard times and stormy weather.

A perfect understanding of the formation of professional organisation of nurses could only be possessed by nurses themselves, therefore it must be done entirely by fully-trained nurses not by others, who of charity or from other mistaken motives would form an organisation for the nurses. In that case it would not be independent and free, and nothing could develop in the right way, if it was deprived of its freedom. A professional organisation founded and governed by others than its members was only a parody of a professional organisation.

It must work to benefit the sick and the public as a whole, and must be a help and defence for the nurses, it must take up objects that give the nurses a wider working field, it must provide safeguards against sickness and poverty by having resources provided by the nurses, and by doing every possible thing to make the nurses rank independent.

It would be most preferable for the organisation to have its own house, where the meetings could take place and its members feel at home. It would be a great benefit if all

nurses in one country joined together in the same organisation. Something was lost when they are not united.

Better than words is an example. Miss Petersen closed by saying she was happy to have the opportunity of referring to the Danish Council of Nurses. She believed it to be the ideal organisation. It has been able to join together all the Danish nurses, and Mrs. Tscherning had been its President for twenty-six years, and had honour and thanks for what she had been doing for the Danish nurses through the Danish Council of Nurses.

She wished that all countries might be able to join their nurses together under one banner.

Sound Foundation Principles.

Miss Rachel Torrance, Director of the School of Nursing of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Sofia, in a paper sent by her, gave a short résumé of the formation of the Bulgarian Nurses' Association, concerning which there had, she said, been very interesting discussions as to its principles and its purposes in local circles.

The foundation in 1900 of the School for Nurses of the Bulgarian Red Cross had as its very important aim the provision of nurses for the hospitals, which had been built by the Department of Public Health in many towns. To Red Cross was given by the Department the task of supplying the hospitals with nursing personnel. The Division of Nursing of the Bulgarian Red Cross, called the Holy Trinity Community (Sveta Troitza Obshtina), had therefore developed into an organisation quite like the Russian Obshtchina, resembling the Mother House, with a committee appointed by the Executive body of the Red Cross, which directed the school, assigned the graduates to duty, provided care in case of illness or invalidism; all salaries were kept by the nurses. With the exception of a few years, there had always been a graduate nurse as head of the Obshtina. No nurses were employed in the hospitals excepting those under Red Cross, and indeed there were until recently no diplomatized nurses in the country excepting those from the Red Cross School. Scarcely any nursing work was being done outside

the hospitals. On the rare occasions when a nurse had been wanted for other service not State, *e.g.*, in orphanages, &c., she had been loaned by the Red Cross. When the graduates of the Queen's School and those from the Constantinople School were ready for service, as also the Russian nurses now employed, they were appointed likewise by the Red Cross, although never required to wear the uniform. In recent times a very limited amount of private nursing was beginning to be undertaken. This procedure had led to the situation that any nurse employed automatically became a member of the Sveta Troitza Obshtina of the Red Cross.

Therefore, naturally, this organisation had come to be in the minds of the public, as well as in the minds of many of the nurses themselves, a national Bulgarian Nurses' Association. It was not surprising, for, with few exceptions,



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