

had a very agreeable experience. It was during the so-called "Escalade" (a National Fête that is observed in memory of the Duke of Savoy's vain attack on the City in 1602) when the Genevese children parade the streets for three days wearing amusing and pretty costumes. Suddenly I heard some very energetic drumming, which continued for a long time. When I finally went to the window I saw a most beautiful sight—a long procession headed by torch-lights, then hundreds of young men on horseback clad in armour and helmets of the middle ages, borrowed from the Museums. The procession stopped almost under my window, when a man in a striking red costume read a proclamation commemorating the event. The whole beautiful sight then disappeared into the night."

We feel sure all members of the International Council of Nurses, will look forward to some day paying a visit to their beautiful Headquarters, and meanwhile, will wish all success to the fine work in aid of nursing standards and comradeship throughout the world which lies before it.

THE CONGRESS.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Thursday, July 23rd.

(Continued from page 10).

Sister Agnes Karll, Hon. President International Council of Nurses, and President of the German Nurses' Association, presided at the Afternoon Session on Thursday, July 23rd, when Sister Bergliot Larsson, President of the Norwegian Nurses' Association, presented a Paper on "Private Nursing," which we present in an abridged form.

THE PRIVATE NURSE AND WHAT IS DEMANDED OF HER.

I propose to speak a little about some of the things demanded of the private nurse, if she is to be of use in her work and to find full satisfaction in it.

It must be said at once that all are not suited for continuing to work at private nursing, as many nurses have not the adaptability or strong nerves required to stand going from place to place and the constant change of conditions of work, and, it may be admitted, there may be some who have not the dogged energy and clear-sightedness that are demanded when it is a question of keeping watch over oneself, and of having to work for one's own self-culture and development.

The widely differing homes and persons with which the private nurse comes into contact make great demands upon her personality. She meets with excellent homes and bad homes, good tone and bad tone, kind-hearted courtesy and its direct opposite. Her intelligence and tact may therefore often be subjected to severe trials. She must also have the capacity to make the most of small facilities, to work in a practical manner and with fewer aids than she had previously been accustomed to.

The main requirement for private nursing is that the nurse shall first and foremost know her profession thoroughly, the only way in which she can attain the proper certainty in her work, that certainty which inspires the patient with a blessed feeling of security, which gives confidence. Only the well-trained sister, who through experience has developed her powers of observation and capacity for work, can be the good and intelligent helper for the doctor, who only pays short visits to the patient.

In private nursing the nurse, the patient and his environment come so near to each other that she has need of all her powers. Of equal importance with skill in her work is the possession of tact, the power of saying and doing exactly what appears correct and courteous in the different situations, which again requires clear-sightedness and power of observation. The many very difficult situations and con-

versations that a nurse may become involved in, the patient's often abnormal ideas and wishes, all must be understood and dealt with sympathetically. To accomplish this she must possess the true fineness of feeling that springs from goodness of heart, and here she finds her best help in her own intentions.

The nurse must, obedient to the doctor's orders, always see that the curative treatment is carried out in the right way. In a private home nothing can be taken as a matter of course and the nurse must proceed with great consideration, and it may be difficult to be the ruling power in the sick-room, as regard must be paid to an anxious mother, wife, father or son and other relatives, who by reason of their love and anxiety often have a disturbing effect upon the patient. The nurse must patiently feel her way and get them to see how good it is to place the chief responsibility in expert hands.

The nurse must possess good understanding. She must try to realise the patient's state of mind and make herself acquainted with his interests, work and conditions of life.

In the narrow circle of the home it will at once be felt, if the nurse gives way to her antipathies and sympathies.

Great is the demand upon the nurse's silence and self-control, and it is easy to understand that, especially in the beginning when all new impressions stream in upon her; she may many times be tempted to break silence, often from a natural longing to unburden her mind of the thoughts that seem to overload it, and interested companions are clever at drawing her out. Fortunately, however, she gradually becomes experienced and sees that it is not so difficult to bear things alone when it has become a habit to receive, conceal and finally to forget. This applies not only to confidences, but also to the various circumstances and people she comes into contact with. And it must be remembered that the private nurse more than other nurses has to contend with people's curiosity to know all about each other.

Then we have the private nurse's position in the home. She often occupies a very difficult intermediate position. Fortunately, the right relations between patient and nurse generally soon arise. To win over the relatives is, as stated above, more difficult and takes a longer time. Then we come to the servants in the house, who must not be ignored either. The nurse must be just as circumspect with them as with the members of the family. She must be friendly and correct in her manner, must properly appreciate their work; but first and foremost she must not become too familiar, she must know how to preserve her dignity. To attain this end, she must not expose herself to criticism as regards cleanliness, order and conduct. She must be neat in her uniform and be attentive to her person and the necessary care of her body, while her clothing from the inmost to the outmost must always appear simple and practical, never exaggerated, either over-elegant or slovenly. The nurse should know that, since her dress and appearance are exposed to criticism, she has the best of opportunities for giving a demonstration of healthy and practical clothing.

THE SOCIAL TASK.

Too little weight has been attached to the private nurse's social tasks in the service of public health. She has an opportunity of working among those people and reaching those homes which in general lie outside the range of the social workers, homes which may well need advice, guidance and influence.

You will perhaps say that the most of what I have here said applies not only to the private nurse but to all nurses, and that is true enough. But I would remind you of the more intimate relations in private nursing between the patient, the home and the nurse and of the sharper criticism she is exposed to. She is, so to say, placed under the microscope.

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