

her professional training. Standardisation was a useful thing, but more useful as a servant than as a master. Opportunity should be given in every hospital for the expression of individuality. In regard to the standardisation of technique she was not sure that it was going to be practical. The experiences of a factory dealing with mechanical things were not precisely the same as those of a hospital which dealt with human beings.

Mlle. J. Hellemans (President of the National Federation of Belgian Nurses), said that there is now in Belgium a Federation of Nurses' Schools, and the Directrices of these Schools have founded a sub-section which has for its aim the studying together the best up-to-date methods of Nursing Education. The section meets every month, and creates the greatest interest. She thought that it was the first attempt and a great step towards standardisation in Belgium.

Miss P. M. Lodge (National Council of Nurses of Great Britain), Sister Tutor at the General Hospital, Birmingham, expressed the opinion, not only that nurses should be taught the best methods of cleaning and handling things, but that a certain amount of such work was a great relief from the mental strain entailed by nursing duties.

Miss K. F. Armstrong (National Council of Nurses of Great Britain), Sister Tutor at King's College Hospital, London, referring to the suggestion made by Mr. Percy Brown that a standard plan for the operating room might be arranged for the nurses, if the surgeons would try the experiment, and, like the factory worker, be willing to adjust themselves to useful, scientific planning, without loss of personality and individual technique, so that a surgeon called from one country to another would know exactly what he would find, expressed the opinion that not one plan but a hundred would be needed to accommodate the whims of the present day. She, too, was of the opinion that a certain amount of "menial" work is desirable for nurses, and that the deterioration of a nurse's mentality, which sometimes occurs progressively during training, is entirely due to mental over-fatigue.

Mlle. Chaptal (President, National Association of Trained Nurses of France) said Miss Armstrong had referred to the standardisation of intelligence, but if we could standardise heart and soul would not that be perfection—the real standardising of nurses?

Mr. Brown, having briefly replied, the Chairman, in closing the Session, tendered to him and to the other speakers, the warm thanks of the Conference for their most interesting papers.

DEMONSTRATION OF NURSING PROCEDURES.

An audience of some 500 trained nurses were expert and interested observers on the afternoon of Thursday, July 28th, when a practical Demonstration of Nursing Procedures was given by Schools of Nursing of various countries.

Miss Evelyn Walker, who for some years after the Great War was Superintendent of Nursing at Soissons for the American Committee for the Devastated Regions, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The following were the procedures demonstrated:—

I.

A Home Visit by a Generalised Public Health Nurse, demonstrated by the Staff of the Association d'Hygiene Sociale de l'Aisne, France, the Directrice being from the School of the Rue Amyot, Paris, and the Nurse from the Ecole Florence Nightingale, Bordeaux.

II.

(A) Treatment of Hernia in babies, both before and after operation, showing the application of simple bandages, truss, etc., and how to arrange the baby after operation to prevent the soiling of dressings. The demonstration, which was by a nurse from the Universitäts Kinder klinik,

Vienna, had many good points, and showed some clever ways of applying a simple truss, but opinions varied as to the necessity for immobilizing the baby to the extent demonstrated.

(B) How to make a bed and arrange a patient in it after an operation for goitre. The demonstration, which was made by a Nurse from the Ecole de Fribourg, Switzerland, was happily selected, as goitre is prevalent in Switzerland, and Swiss Nurses therefore have experience in nursing this class of case which nurses in many other countries do not.

III.

(A) Washing the hair of a bed patient. This was done deftly and wonderfully expeditiously with the minimum disturbance of the patient. The demonstration was given by a nurse from the Jewish School of Nursing, Warsaw, Poland.

(B) Getting a patient from bed to chair. Demonstrated by nurses from the American Hospital, Paris.

(C) The administration of a Hypodermic Injection was demonstrated by the Italian Red Cross.

IV.

(A) Ear Irrigation. Demonstrated by a Sister from the Ecole de Nantes.

(B) An Application of Iodine Vapour to a Wound by a novel method. Demonstrated by the French Red Cross (Association des Dames de France).

(C) Making a bed with and without a patient in it. Demonstrated by Nurses from the Maria Hospital, Helsingfors, Finland.

No prizes were given, had there been we should have awarded them to No. III (A) the washing of the hair of a bed-patient by the Polish Nurses, and to IV (C), the bed-making by the Finnish Nurses. We well remember, when in Helsingfors in 1925, an excellent demonstration on the same subject by the pupils in the Preliminary Training School, and the demonstration appears to prove that our Sisters in Finland have standardized bed-making according to Miss Smellie's definition of "working out the best methods which with practice become automatic."

A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the model and long-suffering patient which was thoroughly well earned.

With this demonstration the Sessions at the Salle Centrale on Thursday July 28th concluded. We shall continue our report of the Conference in our September issue. We now refer to an incident of special interest which occurred on the last evening.

AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION.

When, on the last evening of the Conference, the President asked whether there were proposals from the floor of the Hall, Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, came to the platform, and said she had a suggestion of some importance to make. There were many nurses who desired to widen their experience and the opportunity of working in other countries.

One of the practical issues of this Conference should be to arrange for an interchange of nurses between the different countries. Doctors, professors, students were afforded this opportunity, and she thought that with the help of the International Council of Nurses it should be possible to work out some scheme for the interchange of nurses between the different countries where there were Associations of Nurses affiliated to the I.C.N. She proposed the Board of Directors be invited to do so.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick seconded the proposition; she thought it was part of the work of this great International Council of Nurses. Only that day a Swiss nurse had told her how much she wished for further experience, and said: "I have longed to go to America to see new methods, but I have never been able to afford to do so." This suggestion was unanimously approved.

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