

SOME REFLECTIONS ON LAKE GENEVA.

A remarkable feature of the recent Interim Conference of the I.C.N. at Geneva, was that it was attended by so large a number of Religious Sisters (Nuns) from Switzerland, France and elsewhere, who were present at the Conference Sessions, and Social functions, as in the Boat Trip on Lake Geneva.

One of the most picturesque incidents of the Conference occurred on the last evening, when Mlle. Chaptal, President of the Association Nationale des Infirmières diplômées de France, presided, and a Sister of Charity, Soeur Marie Césarine, Matron of the Infantile Clinic in Strasbourg, mounted the platform, and presented to the Chairman a bouquet of lovely roses. We wish indeed that there could have been a camera to record the event, which, to those who understood, implied much more than a simple act of courtesy, but was typical of the gratitude of Religious Orders in France to Mlle. Chaptal for the important part she has taken in the wonderful evolution of the Nursing Nun.

In relation to this question Mlle. Chaptal has given us the following interesting information:

Ten different Religious Orders in France have allowed their Nursing Sisters to take the State Diploma and join the National Association of Trained Nurses.

These are: Filles de la Sagesse, Maison Mère à St. Laurent s/ Sèvre, Vendée. St. Joseph de Cluny, Maison Mère à Paris, 3, rue Méchain. Augustines de l'Hotel-Dieu, Maison Mère Hôpital Bon Secours, 66, rue des Plantes. Religieuses de St. Charles, Maison Mère à Nancy. Religieuses de Besançon, Hôpital St. Jacques, Besançon. Soeurs du St. Sauveur, Maison Mère à Niedbronn, Alsace. Soeurs de la Charité, Maison Mère à Strasbourg. Augustines de Laon, Maison Mère à l'Hôtel-Dieu de Laon. Soeurs de la Providence, à Portieux. Soeurs Hospitalières de Lyon, Hôpitaux de Lyon.

With special permission from Rome, the following Orders altered their costume to be worn when on duty in the wards. White washable linen blouses, caps and shoes, with not a single bit of other stuff. St. Joseph

de Cluny year 1900; St. Vincent de Paul, les Filles de la Sagesse, etc.

Four Religious Orders have started training schools along the French Government rules, that is: Three in Paris, 1° St. Vincent de Paul, at Hôpital St. Joseph (350 beds), 2° St. Joseph de Cluny, at Hôpital Pasteur (Medical and Fever), and Hôpital Péan (surgical—together, 200 beds); 3° Augustines de l'Hôtel-Dieu, at Hôpital Bon Secours (400 beds); this last Congregation is cloistered, but the Nuns are allowed to go out for the State Examinations and the meetings of the National Association in Paris.

Those three schools have got the official recognition of the State for preparation for State Diploma (Hospital nurses). The fourth school is run by Filles de la Sagesse in Nantes; the Maison Mère of this Sagesse Order is situated in a small village in Vendée, called St. Laurent s/ Sèvres.

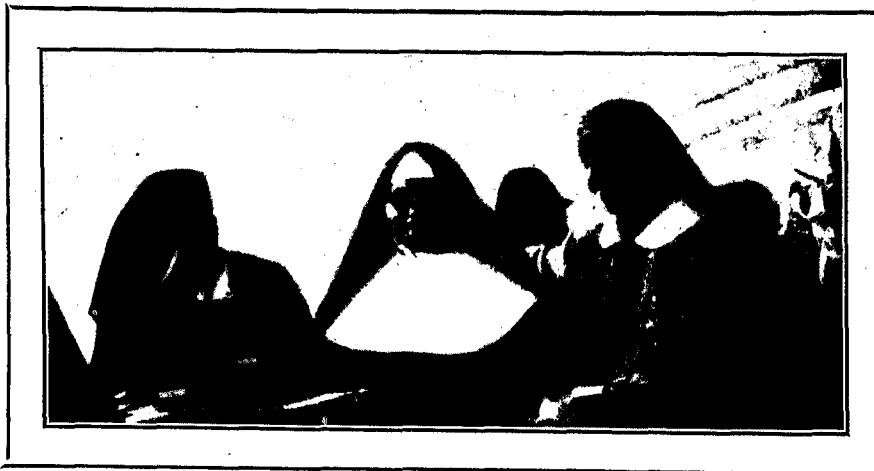
Their Supérieure Générale is a very clever woman—she wants their Sisters to be quite "up to date" in their work. She made them start a Training School in Hôpital Civil in Nantes (400 beds), and this has become in three years a model school. They accept lay pupils as well as Religious ones and all get the same training with no exception. Soeur Stéphanie, who is Matron, was at the Geneva Conference and took part in all the meetings. She has been elected on the Board for Training Schools

"Conseil de Perfectionnement des Ecoles d'Infirmières" at the Ministère de l'Hygiène (the only Nun on that Board).

One of those Sisters gave the following answer to a Nun of another congregation who objected to maternity and infants' wards work for Religious Sisters: "Well, then the Holy Virgin Mary ought not to have nursed her boy Jesus . . . and don't you remember that in the Gospel she is said to have gone over to her Cousin Elisabeth because she knew she was expecting a child? She was not ignorant, although she was the most



NUNS (REGISTERED NURSES) ENJOYING A BOAT TRIP ON LAKE GENEVA.



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chaste of all women.' Surely excellent logic.

Mlle. Chaptal is warmly to be congratulated on the success of her wonderful work for the scientific training of the Religious in France.

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