

PRINCESS HELEN'S SCHOOL OF NURSING AT BUCAREST.

(SCOALA SUPERIOARA DE INFIRMIERE A A.S.R. PRINCIPESSEI ELENA.)

Miss F. Adine H. Wood, F.B.C.N., late Directress of Princess Helen's Training School for Nurses at Bucarest, is now in England, and from her we have learnt the following interesting facts as to its foundation.

Greatly impressed by the excellent Training School for Nurses at Belgrade, the Crown Princess of Rumania, who visited that School during the summer of 1926, expressed the wish that a School of the same standard should be formed, as soon as possible, in Rumania, particularly as several attempts already made in this direction had for various reasons fallen through.

A Committee was therefore formed, consisting of Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess; Madame Plagino, Lady-in-Waiting; Madame Pantazzi, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and Delegate of Her Royal Highness; Madame Sturdza of the Rumanian Red Cross Society; Madame Pogoneanu, of the Board of Education; Dr. Banu (ex General Secretary), representing the Ministry of Health; Professor Danielopolu, Professor Director of the "Institut-Clinico-Medical"; M. Babeanu, Director General of the Efforie.

With the invaluable assistance of Miss Newton, Inspector of Training Schools in the Balkans at the time, and various other persons, the School was commenced in November, 1926. Miss E. Wren, of wide experience in the Balkans, went out in November of that year as Assistant Directress, and in January, 1927, at the request of the School Committee, Miss Adine Wood, who had had considerable experience in pioneer work abroad under the French Flag Nursing Corps during the war, and later in the devastated regions of France, was brought out by the League of Red Cross Societies as Directress of the Training School.

Miss Bay, a young Frenchwoman, who had been in Bucarest for several years and spoke Rumanian, was a great help in organising the School.

On January 17th Miss Wren had the difficult task of beginning duty in the wards of a Medical Clinique (of which Professor Danielopolu was the chief) with a class of six Rumanian pupils. The same number of pupils were, in the meantime, being prepared by the Directress in the Preliminary Training School. The teaching had to be

done entirely in French, and, to facilitate this, Mademoiselle Bay gave French lessons daily to the Rumanian pupils. Her remarkable talent for teaching these girls to understand and speak French, combined, on their side, with much facility for learning a language essentially Latin in its origin, and a great desire to learn, made the Directress' work most fascinating and interesting.

Apart from the members of other Rumanian Schools already existing, where the *theoretical* work is very excellent and highly developed, the Nurses in some of the hospitals were not recruited from the same class of society as in our own country, therefore the average town girl at first rather held back.

At first the Preliminary School was located in the top rooms of the "Cradle of St. Catherine," a Foundling Hospital, built in memory of a member of one of the oldest and most important families of Rumania. The pupil-nurses greatly valued the privilege of using the beautiful grounds surrounding the Hospital.

The hall of the School was arranged as a Lecture Room, and the practical teaching was carried on in the same place.

The rooms shared by the nurse-pupils were charmingly furnished by the desire of the Crown Princess, who also graciously took the trouble to personally supervise the furnishing and arrangement of the bed-sitting-room of the Directress. Included in the furniture was the desk which Her Royal Highness had used as a girl.

The Committee meetings of the School were held monthly at

the Palace of the Crown Princess, at which a Report was presented by the Directress. The Princess took the keenest interest in the smallest details concerning the School, questioning, suggesting and, when possible, granting every request.

THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

The protection of Rumanian Nurses by law through an Act for the State Registration of Nurses was unanimously voted to be an absolute necessity, and the indispensable basis on which the School should be founded.

Dr. Banu, of the Ministry of Health, had visited many interesting Training Schools, and had been much impressed by that at Belgrade, and the Directress furnished him with the Syllabus of Training of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and a curriculum compiled to meet the special circumstances under which the School was inaugurated, and Princess Helen represented to him the urgent necessity for such legislation.



Miss H. A. Wood, Mme. Pantazzi, Miss E. Wren,
F.B.C.N., formerly Hon. Secretary Assistant
Directress. of School. Directress.

PUPILS OF PRINCESS HELEN'S SCHOOL OF NURSING, BUCAREST.

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