

On April 15th, 1927, the Law for the institution and organisation of the Nursing School (Scoală Superioară de Infirmerie a A.S.R. Principesei Elena) and the Corps of Nurses was passed unanimously by both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and promulgated by the late King Ferdinand in the following words:—

"We promulgate this Law, and decree that it shall be invested with the Seal of the State, and published in the Official *Moniteur*.

"Given in Bucarest the 5th May, 1927.

"FERDINAND."

The Law provided for the incorporation of the School in the Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, and that the length of the theoretical and practical courses should be for three years, and might not be reduced to less. The full Certificate of Training is not obtained until after five years' service.

All orders contrary to the Law were abrogated.

The passage of this Law proves once again the ever growing and far reaching influence of our own State Registration Act, which required at least thirty years of struggle and endurance on the part of the bravest pioneer champions of the Nursing Profession in our own enlightened country to make the Nursing Schools realise its importance and necessity.

Lectures to the Nurses were commenced immediately the first batch of pupils arrived, by Miss Newton, who directed the School, until the arrival of the Assistant Directress, who, in her turn, carried on until the Directress arrived.

Professor Danielopolu, to the best of his ability, gave the School all facilities for starting work in the wards of his Clinique, which is on the modern side of the *Hôpital Filantropia*. Of course, there were difficulties incident to such a new venture to overcome, much prejudice and suspicion and adverse criticism just at first, until the methods of the new School began not only to be appreciated, but the pupils clamoured for, as if they were already trained nurses.

Professor Danielopolu is a keen supporter of the School, and is determined to have an up-to-date Nurses' Home on the spot, so that the pupils may get all the advantages of being near the other hospitals in the *Filantropia* group. Miss Wood visited them all, including the Maternity Block, and other Hospitals of importance, in the town.

In the meantime, the Princess has had specially made for the transport of the members of the School, and the pupils, a beautiful dark grey-green automobile, large enough to carry them all at once.

Miss Wood speaks gratefully of the sympathetic co-operation not only of the Medical Chief but of the French Director of the Clinique who, under the Professor, was in charge of the whole hospital, and also directly responsible to the Director-General of the *Effort* of Bucarest, which provides all the food supplies, etc., of the eleven hospitals in the town. The Director also has the engaging and dismissal of the whole of the personnel of the Clinique, but the School has its own private maids.

Having lived for a long time in Rumania, and speaking the language well, he was of untold assistance in many difficult situations; endeavoured to further the interests of the school, and was willing to listen to suggestions, if not always able to carry them out.

Both senior and junior pupils had the advantage of excellent lectures from two doctors in Rumania, so that when Miss Newton went out she was quite satisfied with the results of the examinations, in which nearly all the pupils took high marks, and she found them well advanced in proportion to the period of the existence of the School.

The Hon. Secretary of the School, Mme. Pantazzi, a Canadian lady, the wife of a Rumanian naval commander,

was untiring in her efforts to further the welfare of the pupils and to provide them with recreation and interests outside their work. Being a well-known and popular member of Bucarest society she had much influence amongst many of its prominent members.

Miss Wood describes how, through the influence of one of the personal friends of this lady, the Queen (Queen Marie) allowed the members of the Nursing School to visit one of her charming smaller palaces—*Copoceni*—which has been entirely arranged by Her Majesty and is a typical Rumanian dwelling, with low white-washed arches, affording communication between the various apartments, and giving a delightful air of coolness and quiet after the glare of the hot spring sun outside. Everywhere there is the touch of a most artistic personality. Rumanian rugs and mats in delightful colours from many different provinces, decorated walls, low couches (really disguised beds) are everywhere, and blending with them the colouring of numerous tempting cushions and low chairs.

The lighting of some of the rooms is wonderfully mysterious and subdued. There appear to be oblong openings let in to portions of the walls, which admit a sort of secondary light as well as that which comes from the doors and windows. All the most modern comforts and require-of life are cleverly hidden in recesses and elsewhere, instead of being rather jarring anachronisms.

The grounds, says Miss Wood, are a fit setting to this beautiful old Rumanian house, which has such dignity and grace that it is difficult to describe it. A low porch runs round most of the house, with a quaint balustrade surrounding it, and of course wonderful masses of flowers are everywhere, linking up all the other colours. Miss Wood was particularly impressed on the hot day of the nurses' visit, with the wonderful peace and coolness which they found under beautiful old trees, and the exquisite effect of masses of large pale purple iris stretching as far as the eye can see and losing themselves in the distant shrubberies.

On the sunny side of the house is the Queen's rose garden, which was full of promise, as it was just too soon for all the roses to be out.

It was a real joy to the Directress and staff of the School to see the pleasure it gave to the pupils to wander about that beautiful Royal Garden. Upon leaving, the visitors were presented with an enormous bunch of *Columbines* of every dainty shade, and another of magnificent giant scarlet poppies with black hearts. On another occasion Mme. Pantazzi took them to a country seat of the *Cantacuzene* family. This time the principal charm for the pupils was to be rowed about on a lake covered with water lilies in the blazing sun. Their elders preferred the cool shade of the balcony with a perfect view of the terraces leading down to the lake.

On another occasion a picnic tea in the pine woods of *Snagov*, on the borders of the lake, included the pleasure of listening to entrancing gipsy music, by a real Rumanian gipsy band, playing at a short distance. In the middle of this lake is an island, with the ruins of a 15th century Monastery.

Mme. Pantazzi has written a delightful book, "*Rumania in Light and Shadow*," describing all the folk-lore and the fascinating historical events with which Rumania abounds.

One feels strongly, says Miss Wood, in that country the need for a thoroughly good training School for Nurses, and she is also of opinion that the Rumanians are so clever that ere long their own individuality will be the greatest help in carrying on a piece of work which it was well worth while commencing, even several times over, until it had got a grip of the people's minds. When a few months ago she had to leave Rumania for reasons of health she felt that the Nursing School had really become a promising one, and she tells us she will always feel proud of having had the privilege of being its first Directress. She liked the

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