

## THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REUNION.

Miss Christiane Reimann, R.N., M.A., Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, then assumed the chair for the first meeting of the International Reunion of Nurses, and said:—

It is a great honour and pleasure indeed for me to be allowed to preside at the discussion of the first subject to be taken up by this Reunion.

Two years ago at the Fifth Conference of the International Union against Tuberculosis, held in Washington, U.S.A., a Nursing Section, made up of trained nurses of a few nations, held some very successful and interesting meetings.

It is probably not without reason that Italy has been chosen as the meeting place for the Sixth Conference of the International Union against Tuberculosis, because the contribution of this country to the promotion of professional work on an international basis is quite unique; think, for instance, of the International Institutes of Agriculture and Law, both situated in this City and working in close co-operation with the League of Nations.

Also at this Conference, held in the "Eternal City" special meetings for nurses have been arranged for, such meetings however not being restricted to the nursing profession as such, as was done in Washington, but admitting those who are interested in nursing as well, the nursing profession in Italy being still so young and therefore needing stronger support from its friends than its sisters on the other side of the ocean in the United States of America and Canada.

It is a great joy to know that we have here come together to discuss common problems from not less than seven countries, these countries being: France, Great Britain, Irish Free State, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and the United States of America.

We nurses of other countries who have so kindly been invited to take part in this meeting are certainly in a most enviable position because we have before us an unusually interesting programme, while the environment is probably the most fascinating to be found anywhere. There is only *one single* thing that we miss here—and that is an organised group of our own profession which would make it possible for us to keep in close contact with you, the Italian nurses, always and at all times; which would make it possible for us to call you a part of us, a member of our large international association, the International Council of Nurses. We are anxious that you join us in this way, because we need you—we need the fresh impulses your youth will bring us, your enthusiasm, and your special point of view on our many common problems. We trust that the unusually strong professional organisation found in your country in other professions will offer you help in the event of your contemplating an organisation on a strictly professional basis, although we realise that you will probably have to overcome many difficulties peculiar to your surroundings before you reach so far. Let me, however, be allowed to say that we, the members of the International Council of Nurses, are more anxious than we are able to express to you, that in 1929, in Montreal, Canada, a re-organised Italian Nurses' Association shall take that place on the Governing Board of the International Council, which by right is due to it according to its affiliation with the Council in 1922.

The subject we are going to discuss now is one of the most important, for the development of our profession in order to make its members of the greatest possible public usefulness. The development of the art of observation is necessary for us, both in order to make any direct contribution to medical science in our special field of work—

and we have a large and exceedingly important field here which is almost wholly uncultivated—as well as in the direct care of the patient and in preventive work where our observation will be for the immediate welfare of the individual person under our care.

Observation in the real sense of the word is the searching for truth—to leave our emotions and personal interest behind and look for the bare facts as they are. It involves therefore a definite training of our will and capacities, if the observations we make are to be worth anything—a training which we should see is made a part of the professional preparation of our student nurses in order that they will be able to cope successfully with the always increasing and more complex problems of our profession.

### METHODS FOR DEVELOPING THE FACULTIES OF OBSERVATION OF NURSES RELATING TO SCIENTIFIC TEACHING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The first paper was presented conjointly by Signorina Descovich (Public Health Nurse of the Coloma Villa Camerata, Florence), and Signorina Bianchi (a Public Health Nurse at the Permanent Colony of Fara Sabina). They put forward the following propositions:—

Scientific teaching is the well from which each one of us, according to his greater or smaller capacity, draws not only his equipment of knowledge but also his stock of culture, which is a different thing and a more important one.

But it is especially from contact with a work for which we are responsible, a work accomplished and organised scientifically, a work in which our activities are controlled and in which we are obliged to work according to methods suitable for teaching us that work, and for organising it in the best possible manner, and in which initiative and personal qualifications have the means, and yet more the need, to develop themselves—that natural aptitudes can be perfected and reach a practical end, the power of observation being of course necessary.

The best method of developing the faculties of observation in a nurse is to place her in contact with stimulating work which interests her and compels her to take methodical and accurate notes of everything that she observes.

The faculty which we have just mentioned is very important, and since it is necessary to develop that faculty independently of the scholastic atmosphere, for the reasons stated above, we consider that the guidance given by the Italian Red Cross is logical, because by its methods it ensures that the preparation of the diplomaed nurse evolves and develops through responsible work under the direction of expert persons, and of medical men able to enhance the culture of the nurse, and to impart method to her work—method in which her personality will have the opportunity of learning the objects of the responsibility of the work in question.

### TUBERCULOSIS AND NURSING.

The next speaker was Miss K. L. Borne, S.R.N. (Matron of Papworth Hall Colony, Cambridgeshire), who spoke on Tuberculosis and Nursing. She said, in part:—

Most of us are acquainted with the methods and organisation of sanatorium life, for I believe in almost every country sanatoria exist for the treatment of this particular disease. The results are much the same.

It has been the custom in nearly all English sanatoria for the patient to receive treatment in the form of prolonged rest, with a gradual return to active life by means of exercise and graduated work carefully supervised by the medical and nursing staffs.

I wonder how many nurses realise the important part they may take in a patient's life? It is the nurse's part to teach, to encourage and point with hope to the day of re-establishment in home and industry.

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