

before leaving Rome, I can *specialy* testify to Miss Snell's kindness and consideration in insisting on my remaining on until I was fit to travel. The representatives of the Italian Red Cross, too, were most hospitable and kind. Lastly, I must not overlook the generosity of the Italian State Railways in granting us coupons which enabled us to travel anywhere in Italy at half the ordinary fare. This privilege was of great value and enabled us to visit Florence and Assisi after the Conference, at very little cost, and thus complete a most delightful holiday.

Before closing I feel I must again thank the President and Council of the British College of Nurses for their very generous Grant which enabled me to join the International Reunion of Nurses in Rome. I feel sure that the granting of these sums of money for travel purposes must have a very beneficial effect on the nurse-recipients who, in many cases, could not otherwise undertake the expense of the journey. Knowledge of other countries and peoples, their ways and customs, enlarges the mind, and gives a more generous outlook on life, with many charming mental pictures to look back on. This must all tend to react on our work and help to remove the "grooviness" of which Nurses are all so much accused, and which, considering the all-absorbing nature of our Profession, is not a surprising or unnatural tendency. Again I say, Travelling Grants are a boon, and an Educational blessing to the Nursing Profession.

#### REPORT BY MISS D. F. VIDAL.

Miss D. F. Vidal, who speaks French fluently, a great asset at International Congresses, and who for the past eight years has been engaged in Public Health Work, spoke as follows:—

I had the honour of attending the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Rome as one of the group of five Fellows of the British College of Nurses whose presence was made possible owing to the award of one of its travelling grants. Further, I had the good fortune to stay while in Rome at the Resident Home for Nurses, maintained by the Italian Red Cross Society for some of its nurses at present in training in hospital, where nurses of various nationalities were also staying. I thought therefore it might be of interest if I could get some definite information regarding the conditions governing the Nursing Services in some of these countries—Italy, France, Denmark and Poland. The Directrice of the Home is a charming Italian lady (the Marchesa Stagno di Sorete), and the arrangements are most comfortable.

*Italy.*—The Red Cross Society in Italy have since the Great War started and organised a system for the training of hospital nurses, and it has the support both of the Royal Family and of the Fascisti Party.

At present only educated girls able to pay 300 Lira, and known to the various Committees of the Red Cross, are accepted as candidates. Last year only 20 out of 200 candidates were accepted by the Committee in Rome.

After training, appointments in institutions and for Public Health work are only to be obtained through these same Committees.

I would point out, however, that these conditions do not apply to the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, of which Miss Dorothy Snell is Matron, and which nurses wards containing some 300 beds in the great Policlinico Hospital, as this School was founded in 1910, and thus over a quarter of a century before these Regulations were made. All the probationers in this School have a very carefully supervised and standardised training of three years' duration.

Under the Red Cross Scheme the training given is for two years, with a further six months for those nurses wishing to become Sister-Tutors or to take up Public Health work.

Hospital Sisters are paid about £3 10s. per month, and non-resident workers about £10 per month, which in Italy is considered very good pay.

The Italian trained nurse, as such, seems to have no voice in the management of her own professional conditions; all this is organised by a voluntary Committee of the Italian Red Cross Society, but we must hope that, as the number of trained nurses increases, she will be allowed direct representation on the Committee which controls her professional well-being, and controls the economic conditions under which her work is conducted.

Miss Vidal then gave some particulars of nursing conditions in other European countries which she had gathered from her co-Congressists.

#### REPORT BY MISS M. SHEEHAN.

Miss M. Sheehan, Assistant Matron at the Colindale Hospital, Hendon, who joined the Pulmonary Tuberculosis Service of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in 1922, presented the following detailed report, which must have entailed much preparation.

I had the privilege of attending the Tuberculosis Conference held in Rome in September, and I had written a short account of my observations of the Congress and of the different Sanatoria visited, but after reading the current edition of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I came to the conclusion that almost everything worth saying had already been said, and in language most edifying and descriptive.

Perhaps a short account of the time the Congressists spent in Milan at the end of the Conference may be of interest.

It was with very mixed feelings we said good-bye to Rome on the Friday evening and boarded the special Congress train bound for Milan. We had had a wonderful time in Rome and were grateful that the opportunity had been given to attend the Congress, but we could not help feeling sorry at missing the Audience with the Holy Father.

We reached Milan about 9 o'clock the next morning, and on arrival were presented with a programme of the arrangements for the day. Our first move was to find a hotel, remove traces of the night travel, breakfast as quickly as possible, and then set out for the Castle of Sforzesco, where the opening of the Conference was to take place at 10.30. Refreshments were served after this function, and the buffet had been decorated with magnificent bronze and gold dahlias, which were given to the visitors as they left the hall. At 2.15 p.m. we again assembled at the Castle, and at 2.30 left by charabanc for the Marelli Magneto Factory, which is situated a short distance outside Milan.

On arrival at the factory the party was met by the directors of the firm and divided up into groups of the different nationalities, each group headed by a youth carrying a distinctive banner.

The guide who accompanied our party spoke excellent English and gave most courteous replies to the many questions asked, but he seemed more at home dealing with those relating to engineering than with those relating to the salaries, conditions and welfare of the workers.

This factory is one of the model ones of Italy, it employs about 20,000 workers, men and women, and aims at providing surroundings and conditions as near the ideal as possible. Certainly we saw large bright workrooms and, as a half-holiday on Saturdays is a luxury as yet unknown to the Italians, we saw them at their work, and they looked a healthy, cheerful body of men and women.

It was interesting to learn that the silk winding work, which requires the highest degree of concentration, is done by women. At the end of every three hours they are given a break of fifteen minutes for exercise and refreshment,

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