

NURSING ECHOES.

The accompanying portrait of Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, will be received by our readers with much interest. It will be remembered that the creation of this post was decided upon by the Board of Directors during the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Paris last year, and that later Miss Schwarzenberg was selected to fill it. She has now settled down at 14 Quai Gustave Ador in Geneva, our International Headquarters, and is greatly interested in the work. She brings to her task not only a varied professional experience but that most necessary qualification for the holder of this position, the gift of tongues.

The strain upon the health of nurses on night duty is due not only to the reversal of the normal waking and sleeping hours, but also to the small amount of sunlight they are able to enjoy, especially during the winter months. As the beneficent part played by the sun in maintaining health at a high level is more and more appreciated, the deprivation of night nurses of the beneficial effects of the sun's rays is occupying the attention of hospital authorities, and it is announced that nurses on night duty at the Middlesbrough municipal hospital now receive artificial sunlight treatment. The experiment is one which will be watched with interest by the authorities of other hospitals.

The Seven Years' Association formed as "a youth auxiliary to the Church Union" was founded during the Anglo-Catholic Congress in London last year. No one can join who was born earlier than this century, and membership is limited to the laity. A number of branches—which are called stations, and their heads "station-masters" have already been established in London, and some in the provinces. The activities pursued by the members of the different stations, beyond the observation of a common rule are very varied, depending mainly on the particular needs of each station and the views of the station-masters. It is interesting to learn that the nurses belonging to the St. Thomas's Hospital station have decided to work for St. Christopher's Hostel for down and out boys. They are making gifts for the Christmas market and are also going to the Hostel once a week to help with the

mending, a most useful piece of practical work which we are sure must be much appreciated by those responsible for the management of the Hostel.

Professor F. R. Fraser, M.D., Edin., F.R.C.P., writing in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* for clerks and dressers gives advice which may be assimilated with profit by nurses also. He writes in the course of an interesting article:—

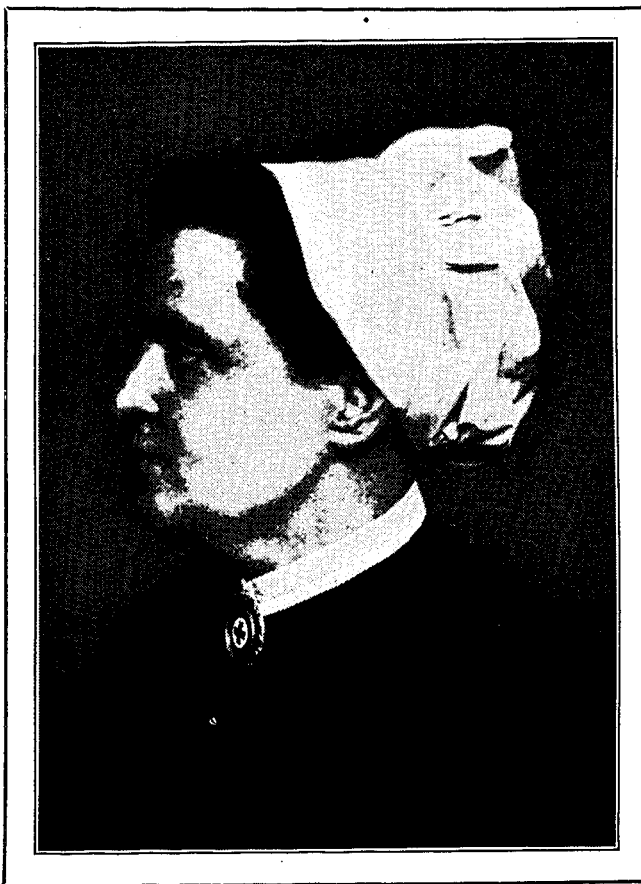
"The illness for which a patient is admitted to hospital is but an incident in the story of his health. It is an important incident, for it has threatened his life or his efficiency, and it must be the centre of attention, but, to make the best use of his stay in hospital and to send him out as efficient as the circumstances

permit, the whole of his life and health should be visualised, and the weak points strengthened and the faults corrected by means of gentle investigation, and advice offered sympathetically. The doctor is more and more taking on the functions of the confessor and the parson. He cannot be a good doctor if he has not powers of logical thought and of criticism, and if he fails to make good use of the opportunities for a scientific training that the curriculum offers him. But he must have more than these, he must have the sympathy and the wisdom that come of understanding those whom he is trying to help.

"It is easy to realise that these must be the duties of a physician towards his private patients, but it is too often forgotten that we owe the same sympathy, help and advice to hospital patients, and that it is the clinical clerks and dressers who can best perform the duties of the practitioner for them. If as clerks and dressers you undertake these

duties seriously, you will find that you will receive confidences that throw light on much that was otherwise obscure; the patients will gain greatly, and you will enjoy your work more, but above all you will learn how men and women live, how they think, and how they feel, and it will become easy for you to help them."

Nurses in training will also do well to bear in mind that technical skill, important as it is, will not alone make a good nurse, they must also have the sympathy and the wisdom that come of understanding those that they are trying to help.



MISS ANNA SCHWARZENBERG,
Executive Secretary, International Council of Nurses.

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