

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

I AM indebted to Mr. Editor, who was present on the occasion, for the following particulars concerning the National Conference on "Nursing, and its cognate subjects," held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 4th and 5th, in the Wilhelmina Hospital, in Amsterdam. The church of the Hospital—decorated with Oriental plants and Persian carpets and draperies, with its pretty pictures along the clean white walls, and its magnificent coloured glass ceiling—was reserved for the occasion, and must have made a pleasing and a lasting impression upon the large and appreciative audience which had assembled, amongst whom were a great many Nurses from various parts of the country, in their different and picturesque costumes.



At two o'clock, after the singing of a hymn, and the reading of a telegram, sent by Her Majesty the Queen Regent of the Netherlands, in which Her Majesty expressed the wish that the Conference might be most successful, the ceremony was opened by the President, Madame J. DE BOSCH KEMPER, who heartily invited all those present to devote their attention to a subject, which, during the past 15 years, had fortunately met with the approbation of the more highly cultivated classes. She sketched the development of Nursing during these years, and after having spoken about the qualities that trained Nurses should have, she finally said that *now* the time had come that Medical Men and Nurses should work together in Holland, as they had so conspicuously succeeded in doing in England. The address was received with much applause.

THE Chairman, Dr. VAN DEVENTER, who was warmly received, then addressed the audience, and gave a *résumé* of the objects of the Conference, attended as it was by those from all parts of the country, and even from abroad. He mentioned in a most complimentary manner that the Editor of THE NURSING RECORD, with whose services to the Nursing profession most of those present were well acquainted, was present at the meeting, and earnestly wished the movement all success. (Loud

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applause). The first speaker was Dr. RUIJCH, who gave his thoughts concerning what should be required of those desirous of becoming Nurses, being of opinion that Nurses should have:—1, Physical power; 2, Moral power; and 3, Intellectual power. Dr. RUIJCH deplored the great want of a training school.

THE next speaker was Dr. G. VAN BRAKEL who took for his subject, "The Training of Nurses." Nurses, in his opinion, going in for private Nursing should have a different training from those going in for Hospital Nursing. A discussion followed. Dr. ROTGANS desired, above all, practical instruction, and mentioned that Nurses should have skill in moving patients, in dressing wounds, in putting on bandages, and should be well versed in the culinary art. The fourth speaker, Dr. BARNOUV, took for his subject, "Examinations." Nurses should be, he maintained, trained for at least three years, which was the standard adopted by that most successful and powerful body the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a certificate should only be granted by a Committee after the candidates had passed a satisfactory examination.

MADAME DE BOSCH KEMPER then proposed the adjournment of the Conference. The next day, Dr. PINKHOF, gave an historical view of Nursing. With the Israelites, even from the remotest antiquity, men-nurses were to be found. He traced the origin of Hospitals and Lazarettos, and spoke about the influence of the work of Nurses as the outcome of female love and devotion. Then addresses were given by Dr. VAN WELY, Dr. NIJHOFF, and Dr. VAN DEVENTER, who respectively spoke about "Nursing of Children," of "Monthly Nursing," and of "the Care of Lunatics." These addresses met with much approbation. After a short interval, Dr. P. H. VAN EDEN expatiated on "the necessity of appointing Nurses in small towns or villages." He was followed by Dr. BLOOKER, who spoke about the advantages of private Nursing, whilst the other subjects, "Nursing in different quarters of the town" and "Assistance with unexpected accidents," were admirably treated by the Rev. Mr. VOORHOEN, Prof. GUNNING, and Dr. TILANUS. The President closed the Conference by heartily thanking the speakers on behalf of the audience.

IN one of the side halls of the Hospital was an exhibition of all kinds of improved orthopedic, optical, and surgical instruments and appliances, besides a large collection of books on Nursing, engravings, &c., whilst a great many dolls in Nurses' costumes gave the ladies plenty of opportunity to notice the different costumes worn by the Nurses in Holland.

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