

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES, ATLANTIC CITY, U.S.A.

REPORTS OF SECTIONS OF SESSIONS.

1. THOSE DEALING WITH EDUCATION.

Monday Afternoon, May 12th, 1947.

MISS JULITA SOTEJO of the Philippines presiding introduced Mlle. M. Bihet of Belgium.

Mlle. BIHET stated that in her opinion the education of Nurses was still "opportune" because only a few Schools had been able to organise their curricula on a methodical and pedagogical basis. She thought the present world-wide shortage of Nurses was caused as much by present methods of teaching nurses as by prevailing low salaries and poor working conditions. She admitted that many changes and improvements had been made, but that radical reforms were still needed.

Mlle. Bihet urged National Nursing Organisations to study the relative importance of the principal factors in

to devastation caused by war, they had not many facilities for modern methods of training, but they were carrying on and were attracting a very excellent type of woman, e.g. doctors, dentists and pharmacists. Nurses in the Philippines are important citizens and that is why the profession flourishes there.

A Roumanian Nurse related the almost desperate conditions in her country and asked advice on how to train nurses when their hospitals had no linen, no crockery, no soap and insufficient diet and food.

A male nurse resident in New York, although a native of Roumania, said that Roumanians lived at too low a level and are not sufficiently important in the eyes of their government.

Some members present thought that too much academic instruction was leading Nursing from the patients, and when one American Nurse who had spent 15 years in India remarked that in her opinion three



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education, such as moral, intellectual or scientific, social, technical and practical. She criticised modern methods of education and stated there was a tendency to substitute "instruction for education and intellectual culture for heart and character building."

She attributed the lack of responsibility found in the younger generation to the present system of teaching. Nurse teachers must possess all the qualities they wish their pupils to acquire and they must practice justice and loyalty without which they will have little authority, she thought.

Mlle. Bihet also pointed out that the efficient work of Nurses was attracting the attention of all governments and that every Nurse ought now to propose the reforms she considered necessary.

During the discussions which followed MRS. DE GUZMAN stated that the Philippines were not short of Nurses; she told us that out of every 350 applicants per annum only 28 could be accepted for training. Owing

years' training at the bedside was a better way of training Nurses, many members agreed with her and many did not.

One of the most outstanding conclusions of the session was the extremely low status of nursing in many countries, coupled with low wages and poor conditions. The world shortage of nurses was thus understandable.

Tuesday afternoon, May 13th.

MRS. G. VOYADJOGLOU (Greece) presiding introduced MISS ETHEL JOHNS of Canada. The subject of her address was "The responsibility of the I.C.N. on International Education of Nurses."

She stated that the approach of the atomic age makes it imperative for Nurses to acquire new knowledge and skill. In the event of another war every branch of nursing service would be called up immediately.

Highly qualified teaching personnel and special equipment would have to be accessible to whatever military and civilian authorities were in command.

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