

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

NEWS FROM BELGIUM AND ITALY

Letters and printed material from Belgium and Italy show revived activity among nurses. The Belgian nurses have organized a national society with headquarters in Brussels, at the address Rue des Eperonniers, No. 44. The president is Mlle. Cécile Bélin, and the secretary Mlle. A. Kestre. The constitution and by-laws sound very practical and earnest. The members are certificated nurses (those with hospital diplomas) and those who, though not regular graduates, have medical testimonials showing two years of practical work. Honorary members are to be admitted, in numbers of not more than one-fourth the number of professionals. One honorary member may be elected to the executive committee. These are evidently to be of the laity,—perhaps medical men. The association will work for the usual purposes, educational advancement, economic conditions, management of mutual affairs such as registry bureau, free legal advice, health insurance, sharing in coöperative societies, etc. It is at present endeavoring to secure the eight-hour day. A number of well-known large hospitals are given as the addresses of committee members, all of whom appear to be nurses.

The Italians have also formed a national association of nurses, which has already issued a monthly bulletin, two numbers of which have reached us. The office of the Secretary-General is at Via Marghera, No. 12, in Rome.

The Italian society is composed of professional nurses and volunteers who had come forward into active service during the war, under the Red Cross. Among these were many young women of the aristocracy, who had the advantage of their class, and who have evidently determined to place their energy and initiative at the service of the nursing profession. We know how difficult it has been to introduce modern forms into the Italian life, and how great a plunge it is for the carefully-bred Italian girl to go out into the world as a professional woman. If the ardent young amateurs will take hospital training, so that they understand their subject thoroughly, they can do a splendid work in Italy. They are interested in public health work, and visiting nursing, and have been in conference with Miss Gardner, Miss Foley and Miss Thomson. The editor of the *Bollettino Mensile* is the Contessa Ginevra Terni de Gregory, at the address given above.