

Turning to the different events which have occurred during the past twelve months, we find two which immediately strike the attention. The Registered Nurses' Society, founded last April, has clearly met a public want because it has been most successful. Every month, since it began to work, has seen a steady increase in the roll of membership, a steady increase in the demand for Registered Nurses, and an equally steady increase in the appreciation by the public the value of the system of Registration of Nurses. The Committee of the Society took upon themselves the burden of its preliminary expenses, so that the Nurses who became Members, have not been called upon for any part of the initial expenditure; and, at the same time, the Society has been so carefully managed that it is probable that it will nearly, if not quite, cover its entire expenses during the first year of its existence. This, in view of the experience of previous organisations, is a matter concerning which the Committee may well congratulate themselves, for it would not have been surprising if the first year's working showed a large deficit. The Society has gone steadily forward, taking each month only such a number of Members from its long list of candidates, as seemed to be required, in order to meet the demands made upon its workers. The result has consequently been, that those who have joined the Society have been kept almost constantly at work, and have each received a very substantial sum as their remuneration. It seems probable, from the present state of the Society, and the great and increasing demand which the leaders of the medical profession are making for its Nurses, that, during the coming year, its progress will be even greater than it has hitherto been, and that it will be the direct means, in due course, of practically abolishing many of the abuses of which complaints are still made, and of the dangers to which the public are, therefore, still exposed.

The other organisation, to which reference has been made—the Matrons' Council—came into existence during the past summer, in consequence of a widespread feeling that the Matrons of Hospitals required some means and opportunities of meeting and consulting together upon matters of Hospital management or of professional interest. This Society also has been, so far, eminently successful. Its first meeting elicited an important paper and discussion, which has been fruitful in several very valuable suggestions; and, by its assistance, there can be no doubt that during the coming year the great changes which are taking place in the education of Nurses will be still further extended and developed.

So far as, what may fairly be termed the mother organisation—the Royal British Nurses' Association

—is concerned, the past year has been signalised by the transfer of the Corporation to new and larger Offices, and by its inception of various useful schemes for Nurses. The change has been attended, of course, with some difficulties, but it would seem that these are being steadily overcome, and with careful and prudent management it is evident that the Association has before it a great career of usefulness both to the profession and to the public.

During the coming year, various questions connected with a scheme of preliminary education for Nurses will probably assume great importance, and it is probable that decisions will be made which must have the most wide-reaching consequences upon the training of Nurses in the future. We have already expressed, in these columns, our views upon this subject, at considerable length, and need, therefore, now only say that, reasoning from the analogies of other professions, and by observation and experience of recent progress in Nursing matters, it appears to us to be inevitable that Probationers should both prove their possession of a good general education, and should also acquire a sound, if perhaps somewhat elementary, knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, before they enter upon their practical work in the wards. Who will conduct these examinations? How the Probationer will obtain such elementary technical instruction, and under what regulations or by what bodies the necessary certificates will be awarded, are matters which must receive full attention in due course.

To those who are about to enter the Nursing profession, we would offer the advice that they should obtain as much instruction as possible in the technical theory and scientific portion of their work before they commence their practical care of the sick. To those of our readers who have completed their training, we would point out the rapid development of public and professional demand for Registration which is now taking place, and we would urge upon them the patent fact that it is only a question of time when Parliament will be approached for the purpose of legalising the Registration of Nurses, and of committing that work to some body to be formed for that purpose. And just as the Registered Nurse now possesses a position which the unregistered worker does not, so it is certain that, as soon as the expected legislation takes effect, those who are not Registered will be regarded by public as untrained Nurses. So we would advise those of our readers who have not yet been enrolled upon the recognised list of their profession, to obtain this privilege as speedily as they can, and before the regulations controlling admission to the Register become more stringent.

Finally, for ourselves, we have to acknowledge with much gratitude the kindness, the sympathy,

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