

This Nursing Conference, however, is only the beginning of a system which, in the future, we hope, will be considerably extended in every way, and which will be of value both in expressing and crystallising the views of those who desire Nursing reforms, while it will subserve the equally useful function of bringing before the public the need for such improvements. In these aspects, the first Nursing Conference, however limited its scope, deserves attention, and we are encouraged to believe that it will be the precursor of a similar Conference next year, and of a very important International Congress in the year 1898. During the summer of the latter year, it is expected that there will be a great gathering in London of representatives from many nations to attend the International Council of Women, and thus a fitting opportunity will be given for a cosmopolitan expression of opinion upon various important Nursing questions.

Just at present, these matters are undergoing a process of gradual evolution, and delay is therefore preferable to haste in their development. For example, the Registration of Trained Nurses, for which we have been contending for the past eight years, is now in the field of practical politics, and only requires time for its acceptance by the State. We are informed that a measure upon this subject was not introduced into Parliament this year, because upon excellent information it was found that there would be no possible chance of a Nurses' Registration Bill being discussed during this session. Under these circumstances, the advocates of Registration—who have, from the first, realised that the progress of the system must necessarily be slow, whilst they have been equally convinced that its ultimate success was certain—have deferred, until next year, taking the necessary steps to draw the attention of Parliament to the matter.

The medical profession is thoroughly aroused now to the importance of this question, and from every part of the country we hear of resolutions being passed not only in favour of the measure, but—equally valuable—defining the manner in which Registration should be carried out. It is indeed, on all sides, admitted that it is only a question of time when State Registration must be brought into effect, and we, and those who are working with us, are well content to bide our time. The opposition, which was at first made in so

many quarters, is gradually ceasing as a clearer understanding prevails concerning the principles upon which the Registration of Nurses should be founded; while the public on their side are awakening to the fact that this question involves the safety and comfort of the sick as greatly as it affects the good name of the Nursing profession and the convenience of medical men.

We hope that the forthcoming Conference will, at any rate, achieve two results—that it will draw public attention to the necessity of our soldiers and sailors receiving the best possible Nursing care, and to the importance of private Nursing being carried out upon lines which are just to the sick and fair to the Nursing profession. With regard to the former subject—of which we believe comparatively little is known—there appears to us to be an urgent need for reforms, and at the same time—as we shall endeavour to point out—those reforms could be carried out with but little difficulty and with the greatest advantage to the naval and military services. England is beginning to realise the duties which it owes to those of its sons who are willing to live and to die in its service; and we believe that the need of improvements only requires to be pointed out, in order to insure their execution.

### Lectures on Elementary Physiology in relation to Medical Nursing.

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#### LECTURE IV.—THE EXCRETORY ORGANS.

*(Continued from page 411.)*

**A**ND then, as the causes of obstruction in the small, are very different to those in the large, bowel, the diagnosis of the precise condition which is present in any case, is more easily made; and thus the extreme importance of measuring and reporting the amount of urine passed in such cases is evident.

Then, again, after chronic diseases, or after acute disturbances—due perhaps to abdominal operations, or to severe injuries—the function of the kidneys may be seriously interfered with, and, therefore, once more, the quantity of urine which is passed in the twenty-four hours is a good index to the vital powers of the patient. Especially after chronic illness, it is a serious sign if the urine becomes very

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