

together those who have trained at this particular hospital, to unite them together for their mutual aid and support, and to assist them in attaining common professional ends. Inasmuch as, during the last twenty years, there have been many hundreds of excellent nurses trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the great majority of whom are not only devoted to their calling, but are also willing to work for its advancement, it is probable that the League will obtain a large number of adherents.

But the moral and material force of the movement must be far greater than is apparent on the surface. Many of those who have passed out from this hospital, in the last few years, now hold positions of high influence and importance in the nursing world, and it may be regarded as certain that the new organization thus initiated by their old School will be adopted and also inaugurated by them in the institutions of which they are at present Matrons. This is an illustration of the manner in which professional organizations may be expected to spread at the present day; and we have therefore no doubt that within a short time other Nurse Training Schools, outside the sphere of influence of the circle first formed, will realise the value and importance of such a union amongst their past and present nurses, and therefore will also form Leagues of their own. Nothing, it may safely be assumed, would so enhance the spirit of *esprit de corps* amongst the Probationers of any School as to be able to anticipate the time when they might become members of their Alma Mater's Nursing League. Nothing would so unite trained nurses in working for the credit of their old School as the fact that, for the whole of their future professional life, they were co-members with their former fellow-nurses of their own particular Hospital League.

With regard to the National Council of Nurses in Denmark, upon the formation of which we earnestly congratulate Fru Norrie—it may be noted that this is organisation at the opposite end of the scale—forming a National Council, which in this case will inaugurate nursing organisations, which shall be hereafter represented by their own delegates upon the Council. Denmark, however, has the honour of forming the first National Council of Nurses of which it is hoped that in future each country will possess its own, all of them being, it is to be hoped, in due time, welded together in the International Council of Nurses.

## Annotations.

### THE NATIONAL SERVICES.

THE Address in Surgery, which was delivered by Professor Ogston before the British Medical Association last week, furnishes matter for the most serious reflection of the public. At the same time, it strongly emphasizes arguments which we have advanced in these columns for some years past, and therefore it affords us sincere pleasure that public attention has been drawn to the matter. Professor Ogston, while pointing out the great advances which have been made in recent years, especially in Surgery, asserted that, at the present time, the medical officers of the Navy and the Army were prevented by petty parsimony from utilizing the full advantages of modern methods for the benefit of our sailors and our soldiers. He showed that these officers are not afforded any opportunity of keeping abreast with the discoveries which are constantly being made in their profession. Not only so, but he asserted that these officers are not even provided with the instruments and appliances which modern surgery has invented for the better execution of its work. In brief, then, it is contended that the sailors and soldiers of this nation could not receive, in time of war, the benefits which they would obtain if they were civilians.

The results of this are naturally two-fold. It is a grave injustice to those who are willing to risk life and limb in the service of their country, that they should not be given at least the same advantages in sickness or after injury which would be accorded to any pauper. And it has had the effect, as might have been expected, of preventing the best class of medical practitioners from entering or remaining in the National Services. These facts, indeed, are not only notorious, but are illustrated by the difficulties experienced in obtaining sufficient candidates for medical commissions to fill the vacancies caused by death or retirement. Efforts have been made by one War Minister after another to remove the various objections raised to service in the Army by medical men; and, to some extent, these efforts have undoubtedly been successful.

Professor Ogston, however, refers to an even greater source of dissatisfaction—which can be removed only by the most radical alteration in the present constitution of the medical

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)