

the nursing profession as a whole. He then proceeded to explain the scheme proposed by the Committee. The four objects of the proposed association were—to promote the interests of trained nurses in all matters affecting their profession as a whole; to establish a system of registration for trained nurses, to afford opportunities for discussing subjects bearing on the work of nursing, and, lastly, to initiate and control schemes that will afford to nurses a means of providing an allowance during incapacity for work caused by sickness, accident, age, or other necessitous circumstances. The qualifications for registration proposed are that candidates must produce proof that they have been engaged for three years in work in hospitals or infirmaries recognised by the council, of which not less than twelve months must have been spent in a general hospital, containing at least forty beds. They must also produce references as to conduct and professional competence. Concessions were proposed in the case of nurses trained at public hospitals and holding their certificates, also in the case of nurses trained for three years in private hospitals of not less than ten beds, and holding a certificate from two "reputable medical men." It was suggested that such nurses should be eligible for membership up to January 1st, 1900.

In the discussion which followed upon the constitution and management of the Association, it was agreed that both male and female nurses should be eligible. The qualifications required gave rise to considerable discussion, and the medical men present urged that care should be taken not to do an injustice to capable nurses who had been earning a living for years past, and who were perfectly competent to nurse any case. It was, however, eventually decided by 60 votes to 46 that up to January 1st next nurses should be eligible who had been two years in a training school, or five years in a private hospital under a matron holding a certificate from a training school, and that after that date the regulations agreed upon should be enforced.

The office bearers of the Association were elected as follows:—President, Dr. Manning; Vice-President, Dr. Goode; Hon. Secretaries, Dr. Mills and Miss McGahey, Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, who has been invited to represent New South Wales on the Provisional Committee formed to organise the International Council of Nurses; Hon. Treasurer, Sir James Fairfax. A council was

elected consisting of two honorary members, four medical practitioners, six matrons, and six nurses. There is a strong feeling on the part of the minority that the concessions made to nurses who trained when the one year's certificate was the rule have not been liberal enough, and they still hope to have some alteration made with regard to this. We agree with them that it will be a hardship to many good nurses who obtained the certificate of their training school after passing through the full period of training then required of them, if they are debarred from membership. From January 1st, 1900, the three years' standard should, of course, be enforced, but retrospective legislation needs most careful handling, otherwise injustice is done.

We most heartily congratulate the nurses of New South Wales on the formation of the Association, which must be of great professional benefit to them.

Annotations.

THE SCOTTISH JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

PRINCESS LOUISE, Marchioness of Lorne, President of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, has, at the request of the Scottish Council, consented to receive purses on behalf of the funds of the Institute during her visit to Edinburgh in the coming autumn. The Council are not at present satisfied with their financial position, as the increased demand for nurses has led to an increased expenditure, amounting during the past year to £1,000 beyond the income. They therefore desire to raise an additional £500 a year, and for this purpose are appealing to the country generally, and to the affiliated associations to help by annual subscriptions. Each Queen's nurse costs, on an average, £100 a year, and as twenty nurses are at work in Edinburgh, and the subscriptions received are only £910, it is evident that in the capital itself, without considering the needs of the counties, additional support is needed. We hope that a liberal response will be made to the present appeal, as the work done by the Jubilee Institute in Scotland is deserving of all support, the nursing being most efficiently organized and superintended by Miss Wade, the Lady Superintendent and Inspector, and the standard of training required of nurses is considerably in advance of that at present laid down as necessary in this country.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)