

the more materialistic basis of a fixed present status of scholastic attainment.

As one member was heard to say, "the shells might be heard cracking in all directions," and certainly a most inspiring atmosphere of freshness, zeal, and interest was felt all through the week.

The necessity for State organization is making itself felt, and the need of revising the National Constitution in accordance with the larger and more elaborate demands of State representation and management of local affairs, is becoming evident. A good State organization, to be strong, must be constructed on lines more comprehensive and flexible than the strictly Alumnae Association lines. The Alumnae will continue to be the backbone and main-stay, but local or general associations will be constructed which nurses from other parts of the country, or even from other parts of the world, may join, thus being enabled to take their share in State affairs. The same lines of distinction between federal and State powers in our National Government must be observed in associations having for their purpose any legislative activity in view—that is, the National Association cannot control the State in its internal affairs, save only in certain specified relations to itself and to other States. On the other hand, the State association, desiring membership in the National, must conform in membership to the requirements of the National. Hence, to meet the needs of continual growth, some meeting half-way must be acceded to by both sides.

The first steps were taken for organizing a New York State Association, and it is hoped that, within a year, this will have entered upon a corporate existence.

### St. John's House.

THE 52nd Annual Report of St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, which was founded in 1848 "for the Training and Employment of Nurses for Hospitals, the Poor, and Private Families," shows that the institution continues to do good and useful work. We are glad to notice that this year, for the first time, a bonus of the profits of the nurses' earnings was distributed amongst those who had completed four years' service. The Council have received the grateful thanks of the Guardians and Doctor of a Sussex village, in the neighbourhood of which two nurses spent four months in the winter, nursing several cases of enteric fever in a lonely cottage. The neighbourhood was panic stricken, and the nurses had very rough living and many discomforts, but they had the satisfaction of seeing all the patients under their care recover. Fourteen of the nurses also worked for many weeks during an outbreak of enteric fever at Tring.

### Nursing Echoes.

*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



SPEAKING at the recent annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association, Sir George White said, with his experience of the ravages of disease in the colonies, he could not avoid doing all in his power for the Association. He had had experience in India also, and knew that the formation of these institutions was the first step towards "collaring" disease. Cholera used to be the scourge of India, and carried off their men in large numbers—sometimes as many as 25 per cent. in a few days; but thanks to what had been done by way of prevention, the high mortality had almost disappeared, and in the only recent case of which he knew the outbreak was traceable to the use in filters of tainted sand from the Hooghly. Enteric was now the chief scourge, and it was one of the diseases that called for trained, special, and skilled nursing. He had come from Natal, where, in the small force which he had the honour to command, there were at one time no less than 1,100 cases.

IN the course of other speeches it was mentioned that 56 nurses were at work for the Association, and of these 17 were private nurses and 39 were supplied to Government hospitals. Additional places to which the work of the Association had been extended included East Griqualand, Dominica, Singapore, Tokio, Cape Coast Castle, Old Calabar, North and South Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

MANY nurses, we hope, were present at St. Paul's Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday the 20th, to listen to the beautiful words addressed to the congregation by Canon Scott Holland, referring to the relief of Mafeking, before he commenced his sermon. "When feeling is strong," he said, "words can be few, and never has the flood of emotion run deeper or stronger since for eighty-seven days upon the scarred roof of the Lucknow Residency the banner of England flew, than it does to-day, when we welcome back into the security of the Empire whose honour they have so valiantly sustained, that little band

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)