

## Our Foreign Letter.

[By our Sydney Correspondent.]

### THE AUSTRALASIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.



DEAR EDITOR, I am sending you a very brief account of our Annual Meeting of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. There are now 400 members and honorary members, and daily there are applications from nurses who are anxious to become members. The meeting was held on the evening of July 6th, in the rooms of the Royal Society, Elizabeth Street. The chair was occupied by Dr. F. Norton Manning (President of the Association), and there were present a large number of nurses as well as medical men. The Report of the Council was presented as follows:—

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association present a report of the progress of the Association for the year ended June 30th, 1900. The Association was, under the name of the New South Wales Trained Nurses' Association, formed at a meeting held on July 21st, 1899, at which the Constitution and Rules, drafted at several preliminary meetings of those interested in its formation, were adopted. At this meeting the objects of the Association were distinctly set forth, and the Officers and Council to hold office until the first annual meeting were elected. The objects of the Association, together with the rules, were printed and distributed, and registration of members was at once commenced. It soon became apparent that the rules for admission to the membership of the Association, as at first drafted, did not altogether meet the views of a number of the members and others interested in the Association, but the Council having in view the fact that no movement or association was ever started without some difference of opinion on the part of those interested, and also the advisability of allowing time for a full consideration by the members of the points in dispute, did not summon a general meeting of the members until December 1st, when, at a very large gathering in the Rooms of the Royal Society, the Constitution and Rules of the Association were amended in several particulars.

Members from other colonies having joined the Association, and a view having been expressed that it would be advisable to widen its bounds, the name was changed so as to embrace the whole of the Australasian Colonies. The rules with regard to the registration of members were amended in several important particulars, and especially in the direction of the admission of Nurses trained in the smaller hospitals for a time which appeared sufficient, and under regulations satisfactory to the Council.

The time during which Nurses unable to comply with the rules of the Association, so far as to produce a Certificate of Training, but who could show satisfac-

tory service in Training Schools and Hospitals, could be admitted to registration, was enlarged from December 31st, 1899, to March 31st, 1900, and it was decided to admit up to the same date, under certain restrictions, Nurses who could show that they had been engaged in the *bonâ fide* work of Medical and Surgical Nursing either in hospitals or in private nursing for three years, and could produce certificates of competency and good conduct from three Medical Practitioners.

The Constitution was amended also in regard to certain minor points, and it may now be considered that the Association has passed through the initial difficulties of its inauguration.

The objects of the Association are briefly set forth as follows, and these objects have been steadily kept in view by the Council throughout its proceedings.

- (1) To promote the interests of Trained Nurses; male and female, in all matters affecting their work as a class.
- (2) To establish a system of registration for Trained Nurses.
- (3) To afford opportunities for discussing subjects bearing on the work of Nursing.
- (4) To initiate and control schemes that will afford to Nurses a means of providing an allowance during incapacity for work caused by sickness accident, etc., or any other necessitous circumstances.

Since the beginning of December the Council has been engaged

- (1) In the Registration of Nurses.
- (2) In the preparation of a schedule showing the curriculum deemed necessary for the training and education of Nurses in hospitals which are to receive recognition at the hands of the Council.
- (3) In the preparation of a scheme for an Auxiliary Branch for Midwifery Nurses.

1st. The Registration of Nurses has occupied much time, and the Council has in every case, either by itself, or by means of a Sub-Committee, specially appointed for this purpose, carefully scrutinised the certificates and other credentials submitted to them. 326 Nurses (male and female) have been registered, and by way of showing that the interest taken in the Association is not confined to New South Wales only, it seems advisable to mention that 15 of those registered are living in Victoria, 18 in Queensland, 2 in South Australia, 2 in Western Australia, 3 in Tasmania, 2 in New Zealand, and 284 in New South Wales.

Under the provisions of Rule 21 it was decided only to admit certain candidates for registration after examination. An Examining Committee has been appointed, and the date of an examination will be shortly fixed.

The Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses in the larger hospitals in Victoria, Queensland, and other Colonies have expressed the fullest sympathy with the objects of the Association, and have rendered important service thereto. The Council hopes in time, and under arrangements to be afterwards mentioned, to bring the Association more prominently before the Nurses of the Australasian Colonies generally, and believes that the number of members will then be very largely increased.

Several members of the Medical Profession rendered most valuable help in the formation of the Society, and the number of medical members is now 60. The

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