

Meeting. It is easy to realise that any expression of opinion by the International Council of Nurses, which gathers up, and voices the wishes of every graduate nurse of every nationality in association with it, will be received with very great respect.

OBJECTS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

1. To establish and maintain a Code of Ethics.
2. To elevate the standard of nursing education.
3. To promote the usefulness and honour, the financial and other interests of the Nursing Profession.

PRIVILEGE BEGETS RESPONSIBILITY.

We have pointed out some of the ways in which a League is helpful to its members; nevertheless, if our first idea is what we are going to get, instead of what we are going to give, our standard is a very low one. Our profession has done much for us? Do we owe nothing to it? Undoubtedly we do, for privilege begets responsibility, and we are bound not only to hand on unimpaired to others the privileges we enjoy, and which have been won for us by the hard work of others, but we ourselves must also carry on and build upon that work, or we shall leave our profession worse than we found it. There is no such thing in nature as stagnation. If we are not progressing, we are retrograding. Surely we cannot allow retrogression to be the characteristic of our own generation.

INITIAL ORGANIZATION.

The first step towards forming a League is to take counsel with some of the thoughtful past and present graduates of the school, and find out their feelings with regard to it; for if it is to be really effective, the graduates must themselves desire it. If this is the case, then a Provisional Committee should be formed to make the preliminary arrangements, then past and present members of the school should be communicated with, and when matters have sufficiently progressed a general meeting should be called, at which the Committee and Hon. Officers should be elected, and the Constitution adopted. The League will then be fairly launched upon its way, and the discussion of Bye-Laws, and questions of professional interest be left to future meetings.

One of the first points to be considered is what constitutes eligibility for membership; and though three years training and certification after examination should be the standard now enforced, the Leagues must guard against injustice to the older members of the School, who trained when a less period was in force. They can, indeed,

be best gathered into the recognized ranks of the Nursing Profession by means of their own training school.

The nurses of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the leadership of the President of the League, Miss Isla Stewart, have shown what can be done, for although it is little more than a year since the inception of the society, it already numbers 325 members, while its meetings have been a source of much pleasure, as well as profit, to all who have taken part in them.

STATE REGISTRATION.

But, we have been asked "Will the Leagues help us to get State Registration; that is what we nurses want?" The answer to this question depends upon the Leagues themselves. The question is undoubtedly one which must come before them for discussion. Some may decide in favour of it, some against it, but the individual Leagues will have the opportunity of considering this all-important question, and of sending up the conclusion arrived at to the National League. The apostacy of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the question of State Registration, which it was formed for the purpose of obtaining, and pledged to work for, has left an open field for those to desire to work for this reform. Personally, we do not believe the matter will ever rest until the State Registration of Nurses is an accomplished fact. We commend to the attention of nurses the editorial remarks in *League News*, the organ of the St. Bartholomew's Nurses, on this question. There is no attempt to influence the opinion of the members one way or another, but it is urged upon all the members that it is their duty to acquaint themselves with the reasons for, and the arguments against, State Registration, so that when the time for action comes, they may be ready to express a well considered opinion on the subject.

A Nurses' Hero.

THE nurses of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution are co-operating warmly with the women of Ireland, who are getting up a subscription to present Lord Roberts with a star on his return from South Africa, and have forwarded their subscriptions to Lady Ashbourne, the Treasurer of the Fund, through Mrs. Kildare Tracey, who is the Superintendent of the Institution as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the new Nurses' Club in Dublin.

The nurses of the Institution who are at present serving in South Africa under Lord Roberts have forwarded their subscriptions to the fund.

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