

has successfully passed the Upper House, and has passed its second reading in the Lower House of the Legislature, and that there are therefore good grounds to hope that it will become law this session. As we said many years ago, every Parliament that deals with this matter will make it more difficult for other countries to abstain from similar legislation; and there is therefore much encouragement to be found from the action now being taken in New Zealand.

In the next place, with reference to the report of the Inspector-General, to which we have referred, the official view taken of the proceedings of the Royal British Nurses' Association must be painful reading for all to whom the good name of that Association is dear, and perhaps even to those whose action has placed that Association in such an ignominious position. It is pitiable that the Government of a great British Colony should be officially informed that the nurses of New Zealand have not the slightest advantage to gain by joining the Royal British Nurses' Association, and that, therefore, any union which takes place must be rather amongst themselves than with their fellow workers in the old country. When we founded the Royal British Nurses' Association we expressed the hope that it would be the means of drawing together British nurses in every part of the Empire; and it will always be a source of painful reflection hereafter that, whilst statesmen have been striving to draw close in the bonds of union and friendship betwixt our far-scattered peoples, a few foolish persons should have succeeded in breaking down all hope of union amongst a body of professional women who were only too anxious to co-operate. We are informed that blame for this is being bitterly laid on those who were responsible for it, and, therefore, we need say no more at this moment on the subject. It will be observed that the Inspector-General, turning aside from the mismanaged Nurses' Association, points out that the Matrons' Council "has now become the most effective nursing organization in England," and that it is actively working for progress and reform. With this opinion we cordially concur, feeling convinced that the Matrons' Council, concentrating, as it does, the experience and professional aspirations of so many of the leading hospital Matrons in this country, and whose work in the past has received wide commendation and approval, is certain in the future to extend its usefulness

and power; and that it will continue, as the official report says, to work "hand in hand with America, in making strenuous efforts to secure State registration of properly trained nurses, after independent examination." And once more we cordially agree with the Inspector General. "Nothing short of this will ever secure for any country efficient and trustworthy nurses." In season and out of season, we have preached that doctrine. We commend to the serious contemplation of the nursing profession this independent and powerful corroboration of our views.

Annotations.

THE PASSING OF THE PRESIDENT.

The sorrow of the British nation at the death of President McKinley by the bullet of an assassin is shown on all sides by outward and visible tokens. Our flags are half-mast high, our Court is in mourning, in our Churches on Sunday the "Dead March in Saul" pealed out, and pulpit references to the sad event were many, while on Thursday the National Memorial Service at St. Paul's Cathedral was a fitting public honour to the memory of a great and good statesman. But beneath and beyond our public sympathy the hearts of individuals pulsate in unison with the grief of the American nation. There is no privacy for potentates, and the doors of the stricken President's sick room have been wide ajar. Throughout the sad week which followed the assassination, we stood sorrowfully hand-in-hand with our brothers and sisters in the United States on its threshold, and learnt to know and reverence the stricken statesman, so that when the news of his death was flashed along the cable, it came to us almost with a sense of personal loss, and the sorrow expressed not only publicly, but privately, was deep and real.

During his illness Mr. McKinley showed continuously an unselfish solicitude for others, no fretful word escaped his lips, no murmur at the hardness of his fate. His last utterance was one of acquiescence in the Divine will. "Good-bye all—all good-bye. It's God's way, and His will be done, not ours." Then he softly repeated to himself the lines

"Nearer my God to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)