

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The annual meeting of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association was held in the Royal Society's Rooms, Sydney, on Friday, July 11th, and the report then presented by the Council affords interesting reading. The balance-sheet is most satisfactory, showing in the general account a balance of £411 10s. 10d. in hand at the close of the financial year on June 30th, and £93 ls. 10d. in the savings bank to the credit of the Benevolent Fund.

MEMBERSHIP.

At the end of 1901 the ordinary members numbered 414. Since that date 106 nurses who have submitted certificates and testimonials satisfactory to the Council have been placed on the Register under the rules of the Association, while the withdrawals, from all causes, have been only seven. The number of ordinary members on June 30th was 513. "The Council feels that it has now on its roll, with very few exceptions, all the nurses in New South Wales who are by training, experience, and character worthy of the name, whilst the increase in the number of nurses resident in Queensland shows the hold the Association is gaining in that State, in which a number of the more important hospitals have applied for recognition as training schools for nurses."

VICTORIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

An Association has in the course of the last twelve months been formed in Victoria. It was at first hoped that it might be possible to organise this as a branch of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. Ultimately for various reasons it was organised separately, but the rules of the parent Association were adopted almost in their entirety, with additions which were an improvement in certain directions. A basis of reciprocity has been arrived at between the Councils of the two Associations, and members of each Association declared eligible, under certain conditions, as members of the other. Friendly negotiations have also resulted in the establishment of a basis for uniform, as well as reciprocal, action in regard to the registration of members, and their removal from the Register for breaches of discipline, the recognition of hospitals as training-schools, and the withdrawal of recognition when the teaching is deemed insufficient and unsatisfactory, or for other reasons.

THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

The Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association is already confronted with educational problems, and its report states in this connection:—

"In the course of dealing with the registration of nurses and the recognition of hospitals as training-

schools, the Council has obtained a considerable amount of information in regard to the training of nurses, and has arrived at the conclusion that while in the larger metropolitan hospitals, both in this and other States, the arrangements for the training of nurses leave very little to be desired, these arrangements in many of the smaller hospitals, which possess a smaller number of beds, are still unsatisfactory, and that the teaching is wanting both in regularity and system. The Council has deemed it necessary, therefore, to draw up regulations dealing with the recognition of hospitals and the training and certification of nurses, and to insist on a report from each recognised hospital, giving details of the work carried out at the end of each year. The Council has found it necessary to refuse to recognise a number of hospitals as training-schools, in some cases because the number of beds and the general nature of the cases admitted did not furnish sufficient material on which to train nurses, and to give the practical instruction necessary, and in others because the hospital authorities were unable to convince the Council that the training would be carried out either systematically or efficiently.

"The Council would deprecate the practice which obtains in a number of the smaller country hospitals of taking 'probationers' who cannot, under the circumstances, be properly trained, and nursing the hospital with these, under the guidance of a trained matron. This practice, which arises from a desire for economy, is unfair to the public, as turning out partly-trained nurses; unfair to the patients, who should be provided with skilled nursing; and unfair to the probationers themselves, because they do not receive a systematic education, and are, at the end of their service, inefficient nurses, and cannot obtain registration at the hands of the Nurses' Associations either in Australia or elsewhere. The Council strongly recommends that in hospitals which are not recognised training-schools trained nurses, paid at fair salaries, should alone be employed."

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION.

The education and registration of midwifery nurses, who are separately registered by the Association, has received the special attention of the Council. The report embodies the opinion that "the six months' special training now given at the three recognised institutions in Sydney is insufficient, in the case of nurses who have had no preliminary training at a general hospital, to thoroughly equip midwifery nurses for the important duties they are called upon to perform, and has placed itself in communication with the authorities of these hospitals with a view of inducing them to establish a curriculum extending over twelve months. The directors of two institutions have already met the views of the Council, and it is

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