

collective opinion through the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and, through the Sectional Committee on Nursing, inaugurated at the Midwives' Institute, the programme of which seems to us to be in all essentials following on the lines inaugurated by the Matrons' Council in 1894.

Graduate nurses, however, still need a means whereby they can express their collective opinions on professional matters. And while we think it must be recognised, from the experience of the past--and nurses really must not mind our saying so--that the majority are somewhat like a flock of sheep, and follow a lead given them with great docility, and without having given adequate study to the issues involved, yet we are certain that it is only by encouraging them to consider and to express their opinions on their own affairs that professional progress can be hoped for.

NURSING ORGANISATION.

In our view, the best organisation for the rank and file of graduate nurses is through Leagues in connection with their training-schools. In the meetings of these Leagues every graduate has an opportunity of expressing her views on her professional affairs, and through a delegate or delegates appointed by the graduate vote to represent the League as a whole, at meetings of other professional societies or public bodies.

Lastly, a National League might be formed which would represent this country in the International Council of Nurses. By organisation on these lines American nurses have by united action gained professional dignity and force, and, we confess, we are jealous for the honour of British nurses, and desire to see them take similar action. It is certain, however, that, before a National League of British Nurses can attain to the position which it should occupy, many more Leagues must be formed. To further this organisation may well be our object during the ensuing year. And, be it noted, to stand aloof from work which needs doing is not to escape responsibility with regard to it. As the Bishop of Worcester points out: "It is dangerous to do nothing. 'Inasmuch as ye did it not,' says Christ . . . 'depart ye cursed!'" Let us therefore work on, through evil report and good report, through times of discouragement as well as when buoyed up by success, until in our profession we find "an all-embracing sisterliness, which leaves no one out, which can acquiesce in no wrong unrighted and no weakness unprotected."

Annotations.

EMERGENCY STATIONS.

The journalistic onslaught on "Bart's" reminds us that for nearly 20 years "to move or not to move" has caused a fierce struggle amongst the governors and medical staff of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester. The "movers" have now won the day, and the site of the fine old antiquated hospital will know it no more. A splendid new hospital is to be erected on a spacious site, as the Medical Board of the Infirmary have made the following series of recommendations on the subject of an out-patients' department, and a receiving and urgency department: "That it is undesirable to have an out patients' department away from the hospital; that an accident and urgency department should be established in the town; that such accident department should contain twenty beds; that it is advisable that the accident and urgency department be placed in a central and prominent position; that the members of the honorary medical and surgical staff be appointed to superintend the working of the emergency department; that a mortuary provided by the town be attached to the building." Sooner or later, no doubt, emergency stations will be found in the various districts of London, and voluntary hospitals, if they continue to exist, will be placed on sites where light and pure air are obtainable.

Paris has already adopted this sensible system.

TRAVELLING KITCHENS.

The Russian War Office, ever on the alert to perfect its military organisation, has recently been experimenting in the direction of travelling kitchens, it is stated with very satisfactory results, so that should the great Military Power of Eastern Europe come into conflict with Japan or China, such kitchens will form part of the military equipment. The great advantage they afford is that through their agency the troops can be supplied with hot food and drinks during the long journey over the Siberian railway. The carriages are constructed with a view to attachment to the transport trains. Each contains a separate kitchen with three cooking ranges, in which meals can be prepared for 700 men.

A practical demonstration of the value of these kitchens was given last year at the manoeuvres near Kursk. As the troops are fed in the train, on arrival at their destination they are ready without any delay to engage in action.

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