

## The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

The members of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association are to be congratulated on the report presented by the Council at their annual meeting. The meeting took place in the Athenæum Hall, Melbourne, and the presence of many leading medical members and Matrons, and of a large number of nurses, proved the personal interest taken by the nurses of the Colony in their professional Association.

Dr. W. Atkinson Wood, Medical Honorary Secretary, read

### THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

I have the honour, on behalf of the Council, to present, for the consideration of members, the following report of the second year's work. The main features of the year have been the inauguration of the uniform examination system, the settlement of the requirements for training in gynaecological, midwifery, and mental nursing, the publication of *Una*, the establishment of the Benevolent Fund, and the revision of the Register.

### EXAMINATIONS.

Pursuant to the resolutions carried at the last Annual Meeting, three sub-centres have been constituted at Ballarat, Bendigo, and Beechworth, and the different training-schools have become affiliated, as they wished, with any of these, or with Melbourne. Full details as to the number of trainees, lecturing staff, affiliation, &c., are given on pages 83, 84 of the Register, and upon page 85 will be found the instructions to candidates, and to officers in charge of examinations. Two examinations have been held by the Conjoint Board of Examiners, one in December, 1902, and the other in June, 1903, and the examination papers themselves are detailed on pages 86, 88, 89 of the Register. The written papers were all examined by the Conjoint Board in Melbourne, but the practical portion of the examinations were conducted in Bendigo and Ballarat as well as Melbourne. At Bendigo, Miss McLean attended as representative of the Council, and took part, along with Miss Farquharson, of Bendigo, and Dr. Hill, of Castlemaine. At Ballarat, Miss Glover similarly acted, in co-operation with Miss McLeely and Dr. Scott, of the Ballarat Hospital. It is a great satisfaction to the Council to find how widely their invitation to the training-schools to avail themselves of the uniform examinations in lieu of their own has already been accepted, and to report that both examinations were conducted without any hitch or other trouble. The names of the successful candidates, and the training-school from which they came, will be found on pages 87-90 of the Register. The Report of the Conjoint Board will be placed before members.

### SPECIAL NURSING.

For training in gynaecological and midwifery nursing, the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, has been registered by the Council, and, after discussion with Drs. O'Sullivan and Cuscaden, and agreement with the honorary medical and surgical staffs, curricula and details of examination have been arranged upon a very satisfactory basis (*vide* pages 92, 93, 94 of the Register).

All gynaecological and midwifery nurses now registered by the Association have first to be on the General Register, and subsequently to pass six months' training and examination in the special training-school before they can be placed on the Special Register. Their standard of fitness is thus second to none elsewhere. Several examinations have already been held by the hospital staff, in conjunction with Dr. O'Sullivan, as representative of the Council, and he has reported most favourably upon the methods and results.

### EYE AND EAR NURSING.

Steps are being taken to similarly register in eye and ear nursing nurses who, subsequently to their general registration, have passed a specified course of training and examination in a special training-school.

### LUNACY ATTENDANTS.

It is similarly proposed to place on a special lunacy register those male attendants in our asylums and elsewhere who have had three years' asylum experience, certificates of having successfully passed recognised asylum examinations, of six months' experience in an asylum hospital ward, and of nursing competency from the Inspector of Asylums.

THE PUBLICATION OF A NURSING JOURNAL, however, has been the special feature of the year. Once all initial difficulties had been successfully surmounted, it was felt that some medium for the expression of the nursing mind, some repository for the transactions of the Association, the printing of lectures, and some tangible and permanent link between the distant members had become a prime necessity. Thus *Una* was born. For the title, the Association is indebted to the Editor, Dr. Felix Meyer; for the cover, to the President; whilst we owe the successful financial and journalistic appearance of the first two numbers to the combined efforts of our President, Editor, and the Editorial Committee. It is intended for the first year to produce the journal quarterly, and to supply it free of cost to all; afterwards, the frequency, cost, and size will be a matter for future discussion. Thanks to the energy of our President, Editor, and Miss Glover, the first year's issue will be almost self-supporting. To save expense, town members have been asked to call for their copies, whilst those for country members will be posted to their registered address. The Council would take the opportunity of reminding members that the journal is their journal, dependent for its success—not so much upon its reaching them—as upon its representing them, their aims, their doings, and even their friendly contentions, and that reports, letters, lectures, and other news from them and by them should form the basis of its matter.

### BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Council has not been unmindful of the charitable side of the Association. Under the auspices of a sub-committee (of which Dr. O'Sullivan is President; Mr. J. A. Levey, Vice-President; Miss Glover, Hon. Secretary; Dr. Vance, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. F. T. S. Dobson, Hon. Legal Adviser), the Benevolent Fund of the Association has been successfully launched. It has already at its disposal some £350, and in the recent issue of *Una* invited the co-operation of each and every member of the Association. By-laws for its legal status and its proper management have already been drawn up and approved.

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