

Our Foreign Letter from Holland.

NOSOKOMOS.



DEAR MADAM,
—The editors of *Nosokomos* received and translated the report of the Organising Committee of the Interna-

tional Council of Nurses, and published the article in the January number.

As they perceived that by misunderstanding the opinion reigns that there are two associations of nurses in Holland, they will try to explain the case. The truth is that there is only *one* association of nurses—Nosokomos. The ordinary members of Nosokomos are *nurses*. Doctors and laymen can be extraordinary members, but they are never allowed to vote—they cannot be active members. The head administration of Nosokomos is composed only of nurses or ex-nurses.

Nosokomos has several divisions in several large towns, such as Amsterdam, The Hague, Groningen. Each division is again administered by nurses or ex-nurses, and each division has its own registries. At these registries everyone can apply for a nurse.

The different registries are controlled by a Central Committee, composed of three Sisters, two physicians, and one lawyer. In this committee the two physicians and the lawyer are voters as well as the Sisters (nurses), because it represents a sort of impartial tribunal. Every point of difference between a nurse of Nosokomos and a doctor, or a nurse of Nosokomos and the patient or his family, can be brought before this committee, who judge which party is in the right. If the wrong is on the side of the nurse, she can be taken off the register for a short time or for ever. By this way, Nosokomos hopes to expel bad elements.

Every nurse who wants to be a member of Nosokomos, and to be registered, must apply to the same Central Committee, which has the right, after having obtained information in every direction, to admit or refuse her.

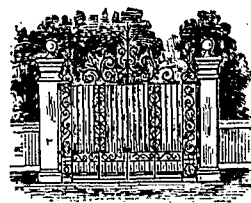
Nosokomos also established, on January 22nd, 1904, its own life assurance company for nurses.

Besides this association of nurses there exists a League of Nursing (Band voor Zickenverpleging). In this League (and that makes the great difference from Nosokomos) everyone can be an ordinary member; all members—doctors, laymen, and nurses—are allowed to vote; all—doctors, laymen, and nurses—can have seats in the administration. Therefore the Band voor Zickenverpleging can never be called an association of *nurses*.

THE EDITORS OF "NOSOKOMOS."

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



At a meeting of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury last week the Dean of Canterbury explained what had been done at the meetings of the two Convocations in July last. It is proposed that a new body shall be formed, to be called the Representative Church Council, and a resolution was carried "that the report on the subject be received; and that this House respectfully requests the Archbishop to summon in July next, if Parliament be sitting, under what may be called a provisional scheme."

In the Upper House, the President (the Archbishop of Canterbury) said that the Lower House had divided one resolution into three, and moved that the change be adopted. The resolution of special interest was "that this House desires that the Representative Church Council should give further consideration to the question whether the franchise of lay electors should or should not be extended so as to include women." The motion was seconded by the Bishop of London and carried unanimously. Much therefore depends upon the decision of the Representative Church Council. Will the Church of England accord this fundamental justice to women, or will she once more show her inability to deviate to the right hand or to the left from mediæval (not primitive) custom? Has she yet learnt the lesson that it was her own lack of elasticity which caused the alienation of the Wesleys, and the secession of the saintly Newman? Has she repented of the coldness with which she regarded, and largely failed to utilise, the exceptional gifts of her loyal son, of holy life, and apostolic heart, the late Father Dolling? Will she also alienate the women, or will she be wise in time and recognise that they, too, have a right to a place in her corporate existence which cannot be denied them without resulting loss to the Church as a whole?

The *Daily Paper* says:—"The private consultation which took place on Wednesday at the House of Commons between representatives of the Woman Suffrage Associations and those Members who are actively interested in the enfranchisement of women is an encouraging sign of reviving interest in a subject closely identified with the best interests of the nation. It was decided, as the result of the deliberation, to bring the question before the House either by a Bill or a Resolution. It is not for outsiders to dictate to Parliament-men as to the ways and means by which such an issue can be raised. But to the ordinary man it certainly seems that all the arguments are in favour of a Resolution, and against a Bill. A Resolution can be discussed and decided upon without any complication arising from the framing of a Bill.

"What an outsider, however, can say, and has a right to say with whatever degree of emphasis he can command, is that, whether by Bill or by Resolution, it is absolutely imperative that the subject should be brought before the House and forced to a division. It

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)