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## Editorial.

### THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT.

One of the most hopeful signs in the nursing world is the way in which, through our nursing journals and societies, and especially through the International Council of Nurses, the nurses of all nations are drawing together and learning to know and trust one another, united by the strong bond which common work and aims so often forge, and by an increasing realisation of the value of co-operation.

We have lately been honoured by an invitation from the Council of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association to act as its delegate at the International Congress of Women at Berlin, to which we have sent a cordial acceptance. Nothing proves more clearly the advances which, as a profession, we are making towards consolidation. Ten years ago such an invitation would have been practically impossible. The aspirations of nurses in the old and new worlds were then the same, but we had no organised means of contact and communication with one another; not only internationally, but nationally also, we worked for the most part as isolated units, to the detriment of our professional life.

With the new century a happier condition has been inaugurated. In America, the Alumnae Associations, corresponding to our Training-School Leagues, had already taken root, and through the National Associated (or affiliated) Alumnae the graduate nurses of the United States had become articulate, and were able to take concerted action. The International Congress in London in 1899 and at Buffalo in 1901 gave a great impetus to the desire for further co-operation; the formation of the Australasian and Victorian Trained Nurses' Associations, with the publication of their professional journals, put us in touch with the nurses of these Colonies; our own journals made them familiar with the work of those in sympathy with their own ideals, and thus, instead

of being unrepresented at the great Congresses of Women and of Nurses at Berlin this year, Victorian nurses have been able to nominate a delegate near at hand to represent them, a precedent which, no doubt, will be followed in future Congresses. In this country, Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, is promoting a movement for the closer union of existing Leagues and professional societies of nurses, and the Conference convened by her for April 8th will be a most important one. The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses has already declared in favour of affiliation with others, and the President of another League, intimating that it will send delegates to take part in the Conference, writes:—"Anything is good which tends to break down the narrow parochialism of English nursing systems." There is therefore reason to hope that English Nursing Leagues may shortly take steps to form a Central Committee which, while in no way affecting the autonomy of the Leagues, will yet provide the necessary connecting link, ensuring both a means of direct communication between co-operating Leagues, and an official medium with the International Council of Nurses, bringing us into touch with all National Councils of Nurses which hereafter may enter it, and co-ordinating the work of all. The meeting of the International Council at Berlin in June affords an opportunity of which we shall do well to avail ourselves to the full. And, to do this, we must be present not only as members of individual societies, but as an integral part of its organisation, with a right to a vote in its deliberations. To have this right we must form our central organisation, which might take the form of a Provisional Committee, acting as such until a National Council of Nurses is fully formed. We shall then, as Miss Lavinia Dock well puts it, go to this great gathering not only as spectators, but "as reinforcements to a great army whose cause is just."

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