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Editorial.

FEDERATION.

The reciprocal agreement between the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association and the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association is, we regret to learn, in some danger of a rupture. We can only agree with the aspirations expressed in the Journal of the former Association, and hope for "a satisfactory dissipation of the present clouds," feeling sure that any rupture will not be for the general welfare of nursing in the Commonwealth at the present time.

Both these Associations have done splendid work in the organisation of nursing in New South Wales and Victoria respectively. The Victorian Association has for some time past instituted central examinations for nurses, and secured the co-operation of all the important hospitals in the colony. It has been able to enforce the ideal standard for midwifery nurses, and to insist that all shall have had three years' general training. The New South Wales Association has secured Government recognition of its members to the extent that it is necessary to be a member of this Association to be eligible for the post of Matron in a hospital subsidised by the Government of that colony; it has organised branches in South Australia and Queensland; and it has now formulated a scheme for a Central Examination, providing that no nurse trained at a training-school under the control of the A.T.N.A. shall be admitted to membership until she has passed this final examination of the Association. The scheme has been approved by the Council, and now awaits ratification by a special general meeting convened for the purpose of considering it.

Each Association has, therefore, done much of the "spade work" which must precede effective organisation under State control. Each has dealt with the problems which confront it in the manner which seemed best to it. Victoria takes exception to the policy of the

sister Association of extending its influence to the States beyond New South Wales, and urges as its ideal a Federal Council, with self-governing Associations in the various States. With this we are entirely in agreement, and we are glad to know that it is the ideal of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association also, for the leading article of the October number of its journal specifically stated this to be the case, and further that its realisation was hoped for before 1909. Meanwhile, the Australasian Association considered that it could do useful service by forming branches in other States.

Federation being the ideal of both Associations any rupture between them would be greatly to be deplored in the interests of nursing as a whole, and we trust that it may be avoided.

We believe that the best solution of the present difficulty would be for both Associations to concentrate their energies on obtaining a system of Registration of Trained Nurses throughout the Commonwealth on the lines which both regard as ideal—*i.e.*, government by a Federal Council. Voluntary effort must precede State organisation, but this having accomplished its purpose of demonstrating the need and the value of systematic organisation and control by a central body, experience goes to prove that the natural sequence is State control, and that if such a system is unduly deferred the result is not good either for voluntary Associations or for the progress of nursing generally. We commend this suggestion to our Australian colleagues.

We note that in moving a resolution in support of the formation of a South Australian Branch Association, Dr. Wilson urged that before long legislation would probably be introduced in regard to Registration, and it would then be all in their favour if they were members of such a strong body as the A.T.N.A., so that it seems likely that the South Australian Branch, in common with the two Associations already formed, will keep Registration under

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