

"Unity is Strength." But soon the Leagues began to stretch out their hands to one another, to widen their borders, and Miss Rogers, in her Presidential Address to the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, well expressed the feeling for closer union when, speaking of the International Council of Nurses, she said "she thought all would see that much more could be accomplished for their profession in combining than if each League remained as a unit and went its own way, for so they would necessarily have greater weight than if each separate League acted on its own initiative."

So we find our ultimate and natural goal in the International Council of Nurses, the Preamble of whose Constitution runs thus: "We nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our Profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick and to secure the honour and interests of the Nursing Profession," and there are many who can testify that their lives are the happier and richer for the friendships formed through the medium of the International Council.

But how are international relations to be maintained? International Congresses, stimulating and inspiring as they are to all who take part in them, are, of necessity, comparatively rare occurrences. Our interest in and knowledge of one another's doings are kept alive by our professional journals. In this direction the advance in the last twelve years is remarkable. When we first undertook to edit this Journal, neither in this country, nor indeed in any other, was there a journal edited by nurses for nurses. Now we have the various League journals and the Queen's Nurses' magazine, all with their own professional editors. And in America, Australia, and Germany nurses have learnt the supreme importance of maintaining and controlling professional organs. Such Journals have influenced nursing opinion, broken down the barriers, lessened the distance, and created mutual understanding between the nurses of diverse nations, separated by thousands of miles, as no other agency could do, and withal have maintained the most cordial relations with one another. It was the wisest of men who, when he said "get wisdom," added "with all thy getting get understanding." To increase the "understanding" between nurses is one of the main functions of their professional press.

Annotations.

LECTURES TO MIDWIVES UNDER THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

The lectures to practising midwives, which have been given in seven centres during the earlier months of the year, will be continued in the autumn, and further classes will be formed all over London, if a sufficient number of midwives signify their desire to attend.

These lectures are practical, and are delivered by doctors; they are therefore acceptable to both trained and untrained midwives who desire to keep themselves in touch with modern methods. The lectures will also be extremely helpful in explaining fully the requirements of the Midwives' Act, and the rules of the Central Midwives' Board, with which midwives are expected to conform in order to keep on the roll.

District Monthly Nurses will also be admitted to these classes. The fee is 1s. for the course of thirteen lectures. Members may join at any time during the course.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, Westminster.

THE INCREASE OF LUNACY.

The fifty-ninth annual report of the Commissioners in Lunacy has now been issued in the form of a Blue Book, from which it appears that on January 1st, 1905, the ratio of the insane for 10,000 of population was 35.09, showing an increase of 1.09 per cent, on the ratio for the same day last year. The actual numerical increase of the insane was from 117,199 to 119,829, or 2.2 per cent. In 1896 this ratio was 31.31, so that it has in the nine years increased by 12.07 per cent., the proportion of insane persons in the community having risen from 1 in 319 to 1 in 285 in the same period. The increase of population in the nine years has been 10.8 per cent., whilst that of the number of insane has been 24.2 per cent.

The Commissioners direct special attention to alcoholic intemperance, and say that intemperance, as an assigned cause of insanity, appears in 22.7 per cent. of the male admissions, and 9.4 of the female admissions to asylums. Such intemperance is frequently "as much an effect of brain weakness as a cause, and the intermingling of these renders it impossible to arrive at precise conclusions. In any case, it cannot be denied that alcohol is a brain poison."

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