

## Nursing Progress in Victoria.

The history of the year's work in Victoria is told in the Annual Report of the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, from which we make the following extracts:—

"UNA."

It is a matter for general congratulation that *Una* continues to maintain its high standard of excellence, and to provide members with an admirable and appreciated means of inter-communication, and the best thanks of the Association are due to the editor and the editorial staff for their tireless efforts.

### GENERAL TRAINING-SCHOOLS.

The thanks of the Association are also due to the committees of management, the Matrons, and the members of the teaching staffs of the different training-schools for their invaluable co-operation in the routine work of practical training, in the framing of an educational standard, and in all matters in which their help and interest were solicited. The annual reports show that the training of nurses is proceeding satisfactorily, and that Matrons and teachers are fully alive to their responsible duties. Amongst the questions calling for early settlement are the minimum number of occupied beds and the comparative lack of surgical facilities in some of the smaller schools.

### SPECIAL TRAINING-SCHOOLS.

The Association is to be congratulated upon having from the first adopted the policy, admittedly ideal, of making all branches of special training depend upon the possession of a general certificate. Dearth of registered applicants, however, has made it expedient in a few cases to permit the employment of probationers, upon the understanding that they obtain no certificate until they have a place on the General Register. This dearth is owing partly to nurses failing to recognise the importance of special training, partly to special training-schools failing to meet nurses to what the latter deem a satisfactory extent, and partly to failures incidental to starting. Henceforward, it is anticipated that there will be little or no cause for complaint on either side. Meantime, the Council thanks the various committees for their cordial co-operation and evident desire to assist in all ways in their power. During the year eye and ear nursing and infectious diseases nursing have been added to the special branches, and before long special training-schools in midwifery will in all probability be recognised outside the State. Steps are also being taken to constitute courses of mental nursing, and to provide for the certification of male attendants with specified asylum experience. The Council thus hopes soon to be in the enviable position of having every branch of special nursing suitably provided for.

### THE CONJOINT BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Hitherto, training-schools with over forty beds might, subject to certain conditions, examine their own trainees. This year, however, has brought the time when all final nursing examinations have to be held by the Conjoint Board of Examiners, and the first such examination was held in June, in Melbourne, and in each sub-centre—Ballarat, Bendigo, and Beechworth. The Council congratulates all concerned upon the successful inauguration of a uniform standard, and specially thanks the training-schools for their hearty co-operation, without which any such attempt would

have been impossible. The thanks of the Association are also due to the members of the Conjoint Board, and the local examiners, for their continued and unremitting labours in this respect.

### ADDITIONS TO THE CURRICULUM OF STUDY.

Now that the different training-schools are in good working order, and the requirements of the curriculum are being smoothly and systematically met, it has been thought advisable to make several additions and extensions in the shape of invalid cookery, a certain amount of hygiene, and the rudiments of dispensing. The special attention of nurses, Matrons, and teaching staffs is accordingly drawn to the notification with reference to these matters.

### THE PRELIMINARY TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF PROBATIONERS.

After consultation with the different training-schools, and with the assistance of the Education Department of Victoria and the Australian Health Society, the Council has formulated what it considers to be the advisable equipment for the future probationer, leaving, of course, selective and elective powers, where they rightly belong, in the present hands. To allow of development, and to prevent any personal hardship, the Council suggests that the requirements be preferential and not compulsory for three years to come. The standards adopted are of State efficiency and extent, and ample provision has been made for their practical accomplishment. The details have been forwarded to the different training-schools for their consideration and criticism, and will be found in the June issue of *Una*. In the opinion of the Council, the general adoption of the scheme will represent an advance in the nursing of the State second only to that which was made when all the training-schools of the State came into line and adopted the present uniform standard of training and examination. The Council therefore confidently invites their co-operation along these lines also.

### CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL FITNESS FOR FUTURE MATRONS.

The Council has similarly formulated what, in its opinion, constitute the extra qualifications required to fit future Matrons for their responsible duties. The certificate, of course, carries with it simply this extra fitness, but the Council trusts that its value will be recognised, both by the committees of management who elect, and by the nurses who seek election.

### RELATIONS WITH THE AUSTRALASIAN TRAINED NURSES ASSOCIATION.

Finding that the reciprocal agreement between the A.T.N.A. and the R.V.T.N.A. was acting in some respects detrimentally to the interests of Victorian nurses, and that there was a growing discrepancy between the requirements of the two Associations, the Council deemed it wise, during the year, to raise the question of some modification of the existing basis of agreement. The matter is still *sub judice*, but, from the manner in which it has been received by the A.T.N.A., there is every reason to anticipate an amicable settlement along lines of advantage to Australian nursing generally.

### OBSTETRIC NURSING.

It is generally admitted that the providing of efficient obstetric nursing for all is a question of fundamental importance. At the instance of the Committee of the Women's Hospital the Council

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)