

arranged a conference to discuss the situation. In the opinion of the Council, the best and only advisable way of meeting the demand is to educate the public to a better understanding of what are and what are not the real duties of the nurse, to encourage medical men and nurses to mutually co-operate along the lines of the visiting nurse, to extend the operations of the District Nursing Association, and, above all, to maintain the efficiency of obstetric nursing. The Council believes that, under our conditions, such an Act as the Midwives' Act of Great Britain is not only unnecessary, but would do much more harm than good, and that any attempt to manufacture an inferior grade of nurse would hamper, if not destroy, the present ideal system, would fail to meet the requirements of the situation, and would prove both unreliable and inefficient. In a matter of this importance the Council trusts that all interested will enter into that co-operation of effort which alone can satisfactorily meet all requirements.

#### THE GENERAL NURSING OF THE LESS WELL-TO-DO.

This is the general problem of which the obstetric forms but a predominant part. In the opinion of the Council, the key to the problem is the visiting nurse, and the practical solution depends on the method and arrangement by which the visiting nurse is made available. The details of any general scheme will, of course, require very careful consideration, and the whole matter is at present under investigation. Meantime, it will suffice to remind both nursing and medical professions that by their co-operation much can be done, and that some sustained effort is expected from them both, in the interests of the large class of the community who are unable to pay the present individual fee.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the Council congratulates the Association upon its present position and future prospects. Broad based as it is upon the training capacity of all the general and special hospitals of the State, and with its efficiency guaranteed, after a satisfactory curriculum, by an examination before an independent Board of the best available experts, it can fairly claim to merit the full confidence of both the general public and the medical profession.

This Report was presented to the Annual Meeting of the Association, after which special Reports were received on the following subjects. They are published at length in *Una*, the organ of the Association:—

#### CONJOINT BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

The report of the Conjoint Board of Examiners showed that at the recent examination, the first which was obligatory on all nurses going up for their final examination, there were fifty-six candidates only three of whom were rejected, a great many were well above the pass standard, but a large number only just reached or were just about that standard. A slight raising of what the Board considered a rather low standard would have caused the rejection of a considerable number.

#### MIDWIFERY AND GYNÆCOLOGY.

Dr. Rothwell Adam read the Report of the Melbourne Women's Hospital on Special Training-Schools for Nurses in Midwifery and Gynæcology.

Before concluding his remarks Dr. Adam said:—  
 "It seems to me that though we are all agreed upon the desirability of the nurses having a high educational value, and of training them in the scientific portion of their profession, yet there is the danger that we are training our nurses too much on what might be called the medical man's lines. For example, a large amount of training and teaching is done by medical men, who give a large portion of time to the work. The medical man by the course of his training learns the nature of the disease, its recognition and its treatment, and no man can teach more than is in him. Now, that is not the thing that nurses require. Nurses' work, I take it, runs on parallel lines with a medical man's work, but they do not converge. It seems to me that what we want now is that Matrons and Ward Sisters should take up the training of nurses upon their own responsibility. It is a difficult thing to do, but I am certain that any profession that desires to progress must establish or verify its own teaching.

#### EYE AND EAR TRAINING-SCHOOL.

The Eye and Ear Hospital has now been registered as a training-school, and a curriculum for nurses in these branches has been drawn up.

#### TRAINING IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital, which was opened nearly a year ago has from the first been recognised as a training-school for nurses.

#### ASYLUM TRAINING.

The deputy Medical Superintendent of the Kew Lunatic Asylum presented a Report on an Examination held in connection with the Association in Mental Nursing.

#### "UNA."

Dr. Felix Meyer, who presented the Report, in relation to *Una*, said it was not a money-making journal; it took them all they knew to pay its expenses. One of its main purposes was as an educational medium for nurses; it had further a still wider scope, that of educating the public. He hoped the time was coming when the Journal would be entirely managed by nurses, and written for nurses by nurses. That was the line upon which some of the best nursing publications were conducted in the Old Country and in America.

#### ARMY NURSING.

Miss Glover presented the Report on Army Nursing. She said women had not many opportunities of serving their country, and she thought that the little band of twenty-six nurses, whose Lady Superintendent she had the honour to be, might feel proud of being chosen as a reserve force to be called upon not only in time of war, but also in time of any public calamity.

We congratulate the Association on its excellent record.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)