

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 948.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1906.

Vol. XXXVI.

Editorial.

THE NURSES' CONVERSAZIONE.

Nurses who have enjoyed the delightful social gatherings which have taken place in connection with their own Leagues will welcome the opportunity of extending their acquaintance with the members of similar Leagues and societies which, in common with their own, are affiliated to the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses.

The struggle of trained nurses in this country for the organisation of their profession has been a long one, of necessity also, because of the issues involved, it has been bitter.

But the work of the National Council of Nurses, will, for some years to come, be concerned mainly with another side of the life of nurses, that of keeping them in touch with the wide common interests of their profession both in their own country and in connection with the International Council of Nurses, the first object of which is "to provide a means of communication between the nurses of all nations and to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality." It is, therefore, quite in accordance with the spirit of the International Council, of which our National Council is a branch, that its first public gathering should take the form of a *Conversazione* at which the members of affiliated societies and their friends and guests may meet in pleasant social intercourse.

We hope that the *Conversazione* to be held on June 14th at the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, 6A, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., will be the first of many such pleasant gatherings, and that

they will play their share in promoting good will and better understanding between the nurses of the United Kingdom.

It is a fortunate coincidence that the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, which has done so much to organise trained nurses, and to establish efficient standards of training in that Colony, is now in this country and will be one of the guests of honour at the *Conversazione*.

Nothing is more striking to those in touch with nursing matters than that in all parts of the world, nurses are confronted by the same problems and are employing the same methods in dealing with them. Nothing is more helpful or pleasant than to meet those with kindred interests, and to discuss in an informal and friendly manner matters of mutual concern.

It has been well said by one of our American colleagues that before nurses can work together they must learn to play together. As a nation we are a serious people, and tackle our problems seriously. Perhaps we have not in the past given quite enough prominence to the importance of knowing and understanding those with whom we work. The National Council of Nurses, when fully constituted, will amply justify its existence if through its means the nurses of the United Kingdom become better acquainted with one another and, in consequence, that mutual understanding is promoted which is the basis of effective common work.

We hope that all members of affiliated Societies will do their best to be present at the pleasant gathering on the 14th and combine to make the first *Conversazione* of the National Council one of the most successful.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)