

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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

No. 1,036.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1908.

Vol. XL.

Editorial.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The foundation of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, which we report in another column, marks another and most important step in the organisation of British Nurses, for through it they are able to enter into social and professional relationship with the nurses of other countries, and to receive full recognition in the International Council of Nurses.

An important function of a National Council is to act as a Consultative Body, and the objects adopted by the British Council seem admirably adapted to secure this end. They are:—

1. To promote mutual understanding and unity between Associations of Nurses in the United Kingdom.
2. Through affiliation with the International Council of Nurses to acquire knowledge of nursing conditions in every country, to encourage a spirit of sympathy with the nurses of other nations and to afford facilities for national hospitality.
3. To promote the usefulness and honour, the financial, and other interests of the Nursing Profession.

These objects are sufficiently elastic to include many societies of nurses of diverse aims. The work of a Central Consultative Body should be to encourage knowledge of, and sympathy between, societies of nurses working in different branches, and it should not, therefore, be formed for the promotion of any one propaganda, but should welcome into affiliation all self-governing Associations of nurses and encourage unity and good feeling between them; each Association meanwhile retaining its own autonomy and working for the promotion of the objects in which it is specially interested.

But the most important function of a National Council of Nurses is its international work. Through its agency hospitality can be extended to nurses from other countries visiting the United Kingdom, and in this connection it will be of much value not only to its guests but to its own members, for all who have had experience of international intercourse can testify that while they give they also receive, while they teach they also learn.

The last object of the Council is rightly very inclusive. Since the International Council of Nurses was founded a wave of sympathy has passed through the nursing world as it has realised how identical its interests are. The Paris Meeting—glorious as it was—is but a foreshadowing of what is to come when nurses as a class, instead of as individuals, take a wide view of their professional life and its possibilities.

Of no work as of nursing can it so truly be said that its interests are the same all over the world, or that it levels so completely all distinctions of caste, sex and creed. In internationalism, therefore, it will find its greatest strength and its fullest development. It is in this mind that we should approach our National Council and the reactionary, exclusive and jealous spirit, and the self interest of individuals which have done so much to retard progress, should be a thing of the past. We hope and believe that in England the registered nurse of the future will take her stand on a much higher plane of human endeavour than the somewhat narrow and conventual woman of to-day.

The fact that the International Council of Nurses intends to hold its Quinquennial Meeting in Europe next year will give our National Council much interesting work to do, and we hope that the affiliating Societies will elect as their delegates women

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