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Nursing in 1908.

The past year has been one of great activity in all directions in the nursing world, and on every side the services of nurses, both as public officials and in all branches of nursing work, are increasingly in demand.

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

A notable event in March was the bestowal of the Freedom of the City of London upon Miss Florence Nightingale, a somewhat belated recognition of her splendid work for humanity. The casket containing the Resolution bestowing on her the Freedom of the City was conveyed to Miss Nightingale at her own house.

LEAGUES OF CERTIFICATED NURSES.

Another League of Certificated Nurses, "The School Nurses' League," was formed early in 1908, by the London County Council nurses, with Miss H. L. Pearse, their Superintendent, as President, and throughout the year has shown energy and vitality.

In June of the present year Miss Isla Stewart retired from the Presidency of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. Miss Cox-Davies, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, was elected to succeed her.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

On January 31st, the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Trained Nurses met, and unanimously decided by resolution "That a National Council of Nurses for Great Britain and Ireland be formed," and the Provisional Committee, after approving of a constitution thus brought to a conclusion a very useful term of office, during which, under the Chairmanship of Miss G. A. Rogers, and with Miss Barton as Hon. Secretary, it had fulfilled the object of a National Council in promoting mutual understanding between associations of trained nurses in the United Kingdom, and had entered into affiliation with the International Council of Nurses.

The National Council begins its activities under most auspicious conditions with the prospect of a fruitful and interesting year's work before it. It has affiliated with the National Council of Women of Great Britain

and Ireland, and is thus in touch with women engaged in every branch of work.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The growing importance of the International Council of Nurses is evidenced by the facts that the Council has received cordial invitations from Sweden and from Denmark to hold its Quinquennial Meeting next year in Stockholm and Copenhagen respectively, and that four National Councils—those of Holland, Denmark, Finland, and last but not least Canada—have applied for affiliation with it.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The event of the year in the annals of the Matrons' Council has been the public dinner arranged in honour of the President, Miss Isla Stewart, in recognition of her public and professional work, of which a full account was published in this Journal at the time. Public and professional recognition, in which the Matrons' Council took part, has also been accorded to Miss G. A. Rogers, the honoured Matron of the Leicester Infirmary, one of its Vice-Presidents, who for twenty-five years has held her present position.

The Council has taken a foremost part in the advancement of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and indeed the question of State Registration is the one to which, whatever may be the other activities of any society, we are eventually brought back, for it is the foundation stone of the fabric of nursing organisation, and until this is well and truly laid little effective progress can be made in any direction.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The value of combined action is beginning to be clearly understood by trained nurses in England, and special branches are organising in their own particular interests. Thus, the Infirmary Matrons and the Fever Nurses (the latter in conjunction with medical men) have now their own associations.

NURSING IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Nurses continue to be employed by the majority of the Government Services, and are, indeed, indispensable to their efficiency. The Admiralty, the War Office, the India Office, the Colonial Office (through the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)