

thanks to the International Council of Nurses, for the unflinching help and advice it has afforded us at all times.

#### THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

President: Mrs. Victoria Pon Yen.

In this report we shall not deal with depression, wars, floods, famines, bandits, and the like, since all nations have been visited by one or another of these catastrophes and we sympathise with each other, but our report is to be a message of the joy and progress that have come to our nurses.

Early in 1930, at the request of the Minister of Health, we moved our office from Peiping to Nanking, in order that we might be of greater service to our country in all branches of nursing.

For several years our members have been collecting funds in order to establish their own Headquarters. This dream has been realised, and we have purchased our Headquarters building in Nanking, where our General Secretaries reside and where all nursing work is handled.

Our General Secretary, Miss H. E. Shih, one of our representatives at Montreal, was appointed the first Director of Nursing under the Ministry of Health. She left to be married in September, 1931. Early in 1932, Mrs. Grace Swen entered on her duties as General Secretary of the Association. Miss Simpson remains with us in her former capacity.

One cause for great rejoicing is the registration in July, 1932, of our Association with the Government. This automatically gives registration status to all our members, until such time as individual registration is called for by our Government.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kong Mei, assisted by the English editors, is the able editor of *The Nursing Journal of China*, which was established in January, 1920, and has always been owned, controlled, financed and edited by nurses and self-supporting from the first issue. It has a circulation of about three thousand copies.

In 1931, sixteen of our Provinces were suffering from the great flood, and our national examinations, at the request of our Government, were postponed for the first time in our history, in order that all our nurses might be free for relief work. This was not only a help to our Government, and the distressed people, but was a wonderful opportunity for service for our nurses, and brought our profession into the public eye.

Much of our work is handled by our many committees, our Headquarters being the clearing house for all activities. The President and General Secretaries are members *ex-officio* of all committees. The rules for the registration of nurses and schools of nursing in China are, in a way, more rigid than in many other countries. We have registered 153 schools. Every school which is registered with the Nurses' Association of China has to conform to its rules, and no school is allowed to employ a non-registered nurse on its staff, nor is it allowed to award a diploma to a nurse before she has passed the examinations set by the Association. These examinations are given once a year, in December, and the diplomas are issued annually on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12th. In order to receive an Honour Seal on her diploma, a nurse must obtain over 85 per cent. in all subjects of the examinations. The one receiving the highest marks is known as the "Honour Graduate" for that year.

Public Health Nursing has also made rapid strides in these years. Many nurses are entering all fields of health service, including Rural Health, Industrial, School, Visiting, and Midwifery.

#### THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

President: Miss M. E. Abram.

At the outset I must call attention to the peculiar difficulties in India resulting from its size—its different religions and caste systems—its different languages.

It is all so vast that one quails at the thought of attempting any account of nursing developments. Had I been asked to write on nursing problems in India, my task would have been much simpler. I certainly should have found an abundance to write about as our problems are legion.

In the unchanging East progress is slow and fraught with many side-issues and complications. The most important developments are probably those connected with State Registration of Nurses.

Here again, peculiar difficulties arise and Registration is very slowly being achieved, province by province, and only those who are striving and have striven to obtain it can form any idea of the problems arising.

Madras succeeded in getting its Registration Bill through in 1928, and reciprocal registration now exists between Great Britain and Madras. The Punjab is the next and latest province to achieve success and passed its Registration Act in January, 1932.

Bengal, Bombay and the Central Provinces all have Bills in preparation. Bengal's Bill has reached the last stage and is now before the Government of India and it is hoped that 1933 may see it an accomplished fact.

Each province has its own system of examinations and Examination Roll under an Examination Board or Faculty.

There is at present little attempt at uniformity—that is for the future.

The training schools are doing excellent work and many have a definitely high standard of education. There is no dearth of applicants for training where a high standard exists, and the head-mistresses of well-known schools offer their best pupils for training in nursing in these schools. It is hoped that ultimately the way will be paved for an all-Indian scheme of Registration, and that the procedure of examinations and registration will be directed by the Trained Nurses' Association.

The number of active members of the Trained Nurses' Association on September 30th, 1932, was 650. Developments here, too, are difficult, owing to the great distances involved, and Executive Meetings of the Association are, as a result, infrequent. The Association meets annually for conference in different parts of India and the Executive Committee meets half-yearly.

It is usual for members of the Executive to travel long distances to attend these meetings.

At the Executive Meetings held in July, 1932, Nagpur was chosen as being the most central place in India, and each Committee Member who attended travelled over 1,500 miles and no single journey was shorter than 24 hours.

There is great enthusiasm evident whenever the Association meets, and one feels that the Trained Nurses' Association, though a small body, is a very "live" one.

There are about 116 recognised Schools of Nursing in India, 50 of which are Government Hospitals and the remainder Mission Hospitals.

Many of the hospitals in this great land are well equipped and are very beautiful.

#### THE NEW ZEALAND TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

President: Miss E. J. Young.

#### AMENDMENT TO THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES REGISTRATION ACT.

The Trained Nurses' Association of New Zealand was early in 1930 confronted with a Bill introduced into the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)