

merely tended to bring it and its work more and more prominently before the public.

In this connection, we shall shortly have the pleasure of illustrating, at length, the benefits which have thus accrued directly to the Association. But, with regard to the objects which it was formed to promote—Union amongst, and justice, to Nurses—we publish, in another column, this week, an account of a movement which is taking place in France, and which is the latest exemplification of the manner in which the precedent of the Association is being followed in other lands; in which its principles are spreading amongst the nations; in which the seed which it has sown, is bearing fruit throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world.

It is well to stand aside, now and then, in the rush and hurry of our every day work, in order to notice quietly the progress of events beyond our own immediate circles; to observe how the area of light enlarges as the illuminating power increases in intensity; how the circuit of the ripples on the river of thought extends as it passes outwards from the central point of impulse. It is good, on the one hand, to understand how much of good or evil the individual can do for all humanity, and, on the other, to realize how infinitely small is the unit amongst the incalculable multitude of mankind. Looking at our subject in this light, it is observable what great effects have been produced in a short half decade. It is barely five years ago, since, by the exertion of a few persons—amongst whom the name of Her Royal Highness Princess CHRISTIAN will always be pre-eminently remembered—the first Union of Nurses ever formed was brought into existence, in this country, to inculcate certain principles, and to carry out certain urgently needed reforms. To many, then, its objects appeared visionary and impossible of fulfilment, while the keenly interested and virulent opposition which it encountered made others prophesy that it would be asphyxiated in a few weeks or months. But, as all our readers know, within two years it had initiated a system of voluntary Registration in this country, and was firmly established. Before three years had elapsed, an

American Nurses' Association had been founded. The fourth year of its existence showed its influence spreading beyond the Equator, and a great out-land Colony of the Empire making legal provisions for the State enforcement of the first reform advocated by the Association—the Registration of Trained Nurses—an immense step in advance. And during the fifth year of its life, the progress has been increasingly rapid. An Australian Nurses' Association has been formed with the avowed intention of working up to the present standard of the parent body, and then of seeking affiliation with it. A conference of Dutch Nurses has practically determined to form a Union of Nurses in Holland, on the same lines as its British exemplar. Legislative proposals, having as their basis the Registration of Nurses, are occupying the attention of the Government in more than one great Colony, and State provision for this end has actually been recommended by a Royal Commission in another Colony. We are ourselves in communication with influential readers abroad as to the best means of forming an Association in their country, and hope, in due course, to be able to announce its successful initiation. Finally, there comes the news, which we bring before our readers to-day, of the movement in France—founded to carry out the self-same objects, although not yet organized upon the same self-governing lines. This is partly to be explained by the fact that there are at present so few really trained Nurses in France—the calling, until recently, having been practically monopolised by Sisters of Charity. But from the commencement now so happily made will result, we have every reason to believe, an organization as valuable and as useful to French Nurses as the Royal British Nurses' Association has been to the members of the profession in this country. On behalf of English Nurses, we cordially congratulate Madame COUTANT on the results of her efforts, and wish her, most heartily, all success in her great endeavours. We shall watch the progress of the French Nurses' Union with much interest, and, as occasion arises, will gladly chronicle its future achievements.

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