

registration and education of medical, surgical and obstetric Nurses; and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider this matter, and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation."

This marks an era in the progress of the movement for the legal Registration of Nurses, the importance of which it would be impossible to over-estimate. It means the formal and public adhesion of the medical profession in this country, to the great principles of Nursing reform, which we, personally, have for some eight years inculcated, in season and out of season; which have steadily grown in public and professional favour; and which have been accepted by Her Majesty's Privy Council, and by the majority of the leaders of the Nursing profession. A still further fact of almost equal importance in this connection, is that the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association has given its valuable adhesion, this year, to the same principle, and that it is now engaged in discussing the subject. Indeed it seems more than probable that a Bill for the Registration of all classes of Nurses will be presented to Parliament next year, and it may be confidently predicted, that once this measure is thus brought into the field of practical politics, it will be advanced, if necessary, year after year until it receives the sanction of the Legislature and of the Crown. The matter is too important not only to the medical and the Nursing professions, but also to the public, to permit of much longer delay in effecting reform.

The Matrons' Council has, during the past year, made important progress, not only in its membership, but also in the practical nature of the work which it has performed. Its usefulness to Hospital Matrons has been abundantly shown; and the post-graduate lectures which it has now instituted, will undoubtedly prove to be of the greatest value and assistance to trained Nurses.

The Registered Nurses' Society closed its first working year last June, and showed that it had achieved a measure of success which was greater than could have been anticipated. On the average, its members had received for their year's work considerably more than £100, and were kept, except when holiday making, or in quarantine, almost constantly employed. Since then, the Society has quietly extended its membership and work, and by pursuing the same wise principles which have been adopted from the first—viz., that only the best class Nurses shall be admitted to the Society, and only in such numbers as the Committee can find full work for—the Society may be expected steadily to grow in success and usefulness.

The Home of Rest for Nurses, at Brighton, has continued its useful career in affording women tired out with arduous and responsible work, much needed rest and refreshment, at a cost almost nominal to themselves. The Midwives' Institute, last October, adopted in a small way, the suggestion which we have frequently made—and which, in connection with the British Royal Commission, we carried out at the Chicago Exhibition—and collected together and showed a few Nursing appliances. Since then many of our readers have revived a request which has been frequently made to us before, that we would organise a complete exhibition of Nursing appliances for the educational benefit of Nurses. In consequence of the liberality of the Proprietor of this Journal, we have been able to announce our intention to undertake this onerous and most expensive work. Excellent accommodation has been secured in the centre of London, and early next summer a Nursing Exhibition will be held, in connection with a Nursing Congress which will take place at the same time and place, and concerning which we will give further particulars, next week.

The Midwives' Bill was again introduced into the House of Lords early this year, and received its Second Reading in that Chamber, but was then withdrawn; and the feeling of the medical profession has since been so strongly and unmistakably pronounced against the measure, and such a powerful organisation has been formed to oppose it, that it is regarded as certain that any prospect of legislation for Midwives, as an order of independent practitioners, has received its *coup de grâce*.

The sister Society—the Nurses' Co-operation—has continued its highly successful career, with benefit both to the public, to its own members, and to the great principle of co-operation amongst Private Nurses.

So far as this Journal is concerned, we have the pleasure of looking back upon a year of steadily increasing success, and around upon an ever-increasing circle of readers, many of whom we are glad to recognise as real friends, although scattered throughout every part of the world. For their news of Nursing work at home and abroad, which, through our columns, goes out to their co-workers in other countries, and is read with interest by all, and for the many expressions of goodwill which they send to us, we tender them our gratitude. We ask all our readers to give us their valuable assistance during 1896, which promises to be a year fraught with events of the greatest importance and interest to the Nursing Profession, and we most sincerely wish them one and all a most Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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