

The formation of a committee for the purpose of forming a National code would then be less the work of a restricted representation of Nurses, than it would if undertaken now. If delegates representing all, or the greater part of the rank and file of our *alumnæ* societies, had a voice in choosing this committee, there would be a wider interest felt in its work and a larger sense of ownership and responsibility. After being drawn up and accepted by the National organization, the code of ethics should become the corner stone of the permanent and incorporate Association. The State unions should embody it in their articles, and then proceed to take out their charters.

State constitution should lay down quite explicitly the rules under which local societies should form, fix the proportion of representation, and require them to suspend or expel members guilty of unprofessional conduct. State officers should stimulate and supervise the formation of the work of the local societies, and see that the code was adopted and enforced by them.

To get a system like this into working order will, as you all know, take time. It is nearly three years since the first step towards a National organization was taken, by the calling of a convention of Training School superintendents in Chicago. At that time the outline of this plan was suggested by the chairwoman of the Nursing section, and the importance of forming school graduates into *alumnæ* associations as a necessary preliminary was brought before the convention and clearly recognised, and since then the members of that convention have steadily pursued the work of organising their graduates. But even yet there are some prominent schools whose *alumnæ* have not been formed into line.

If we take the steps here suggested, it will probably be at least five years before the State unions are ready for incorporation, for it is best not to ask for Charters until constitutions are tried and revised, and the machinery in working order.

Similarly, as I am advised, it will be better not to seek a Charter for the national body until it is thoroughly organised.

As to Charters, it is understood, as mentioned before, that a charter from Congress is not to be obtained. But State laws allow and provide for the incorporation of bodies which are national in scope, and by the comity of States such a charter taken out in one State is recognised by all. The law requires that the head-quarters of the association shall be permanently fixed in the State which gives the charter; and, as New York State contains, I believe, the largest number of Training Schools, it in all probability would be the one chosen.

The legal restrictions and conditions under which charters may be secured will be found as

a rule to be less elaborate as regards "corporations of the first class," of those not intended for profit, than as regards those of the "second class," intended for business and profit. An association of Nurses would of course come under the former head, and little or no trouble will be found in taking the necessary steps when the time comes. Incorporation of our National Association is by no means essential. The American Medical Association is not incorporated, though its branches are. But eminent lawyers counsel incorporation for us, as having many practical advantages. It helps to give stability and continuity to our existence as an association; enables us to hold property, which we may some day be able and willing to do, and confers upon us the right to sue and be sued—an unenviable advantage. Should we form a national union, and should Canada form a national union, the bond between us would have to be termed "International," for there is, unfortunately for us, no way in which a charter can be made to include two countries. If, however, our branch societies alone are chartered, and Canada's societies chartered according to her laws, the formation of a central body composed of delegates from State and Canadian unions alike will be simply a process of affiliation, and the name, instead of including the term "International," as it otherwise must, could be similar to that borne by this Superintendents' Association, and in the term "American" cover at once all Nurses in the United States and Canada.\*

Yet it will probably be considered best to form our two national unions under our respective laws, and to amalgamate as an International Association.

*(To be continued.)*

### Aberdeen District Nursing Association.

THE Aberdeen District Nursing Association does most admirable work, and receives each year the highest possible commendation from the Inspectors of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Miss Katherine Lumsden initiated the scheme in Aberdeen, and has worked most devotedly to bring the Association to its present level of excellence. At the annual meeting, Dr. Angus Fraser said that "Miss Lumsden was absolutely essential for the work of the Association."

\* "The proposed associations . . . assuming that they are for charitable and benevolent purposes, including benefit to the members . . . could be formed in their province in accordance with Article 3096 of the Revised Statutes of Quebec with practically no formality, or letters patent could be obtained from the Dominion for societies in all the provinces, provided that the work of the society did not include insurance in a form that would bring it into conflict with the Insurance Act."—FRANCIS MCLENNAN.

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