

Mr. Brown were elected at the head of the poll. Their third candidate, Mr. Jackson, although unsuccessful, was fourth on the list, and obtained the support of no fewer than 4,000 of his professional brethren. All three gentlemen had done a great deal to protect the interests of the general practitioner, and the result of the election seemed to show that the profession were resolved that there should be not only some reform of the Medical Acts, but even of the Medical Council itself. Mr. Brown, who responded, said he regarded the election of Dr. Rentoul and himself as a victory for the medical practitioners of England and Wales. This was certainly the first time within his memory that general practitioners had asserted themselves, and he hoped they would now be able to forcibly represent their views to the Council. He complained of the lukewarm manner in which the Council had treated the midwives question. He would never rest satisfied until the Medical Council put their veto on the practice of obstetrics by any person who had not had a full medical education. Mr. Jackson also responded. The toast was received with great enthusiasm.

#### MATRONS IN COUNCIL.

WE wish every success to the Fourth Annual Convention of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, which is being held this month in Baltimore, U.S.A., and at which the following interesting papers will be read and discussed:—

(1) "The Brooklyn Association Alumnae Registry," by Miss Isabel Merritt, Brooklyn City Hospital. Leaders in discussion: Miss Darche, New York City Training School; Miss Littlefield, Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia.

(2) "Trained Nursing for People of Moderate Incomes," by Miss Kimber, New York City Training School. Leaders in discussion: Miss Nourse, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago; Miss Allerton, Homœopathic Hospital, Rochester.

(3) "What has been accomplished in the Direction of a Uniform Curriculum?" by Miss McKechnie, City Hospital, Wilkes-Barre. Leaders in discussion: Miss Snively, City Hospital, Toronto; Miss Hintze, Orange Memorial Hospital.

(4) "The Progress Made Toward Establishing a Three Years' Course in Training Schools for Nurses," by Miss Walker, Pennsylvania Hospital. Leaders in discussion: Mrs. Gretter, Farrand Training School; Miss McIsaac, Illinois Training School.

(5) "The Problem of the Nursing in Small Hospitals," by Mrs. Robb, Cleveland, Ohio (formerly Miss Hampton). Leaders in discussion: Miss Nevins, Garfield Hospital; Miss Bannister, Wisconsin General Training School.

#### THE POSSIBILITIES OF ALUMNÆ ASSOCIATIONS.

BY MRS. ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB.

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There should also be some provision made for caring for a nurse's savings, so that she may be assured a fund for her old age, or for long periods of enforced idleness. In case of illness she should have a place where she may feel that she has the right to go, and where she will receive proper care and attention.

It is evident that, although it is out of the question for any one nurse to provide successfully for all these emergencies, half-a-dozen or more can accomplish with comparative ease what would be impossible for a single individual. What better way then presents itself than to follow the fashion of the times, and by organisation to utilise the possibilities and strength that come from union. It is necessary for such societies to have a name, and, since Training Schools are educational institutions, why should not their graduates follow the custom of schools and universities and organise themselves into Alumnae Associations?

The system seems to offer capabilities of great extension. The graduates of each school, when sufficiently large, or of two or more of the smaller schools, could have their own Alumnae Association. From these could be constituted a State or Provincial Alumnae Association, and, finally, all could be included in a National Alumnae Association.

Every graduate should esteem it an honour and privilege to be received as a member of her School Alumnae Association. It should be considered, even more than her hospital, as the voucher for her capabilities, and for her mental, moral and professional standing. To be disowned by her fellow-Alumnae should mean distinct loss of professional caste.

Each association should aim at obtaining a club-house, owned by the Alumnae, in which comfortable rooms and meals could be provided for the members at reasonable rates. The house should possess a general library, a reading and reception-room, and should be situated so as to be easily accessible for both nurses and the public. Courses of lectures should be provided, and a register for the nurses and for the public should be kept at each club-house. Each member should regard herself as one of a family, and do her utmost to make the club a home-like place where the tired worker may find rest, comfort, social intercourse and intellectual help, so that when her turn comes again she may go forth refreshed and inspired.

But to benefit the members of one's school, though a laudable aim in itself, is not enough. Greater strength can come from the mutual

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