

report that any attempt had been made to create a National Council of Women in the United Kingdom, or in any of its colonies. In the United States, the movement was in active progress, and a National Council was being formed, but France, Sweden, and other European countries, were little if at all more advanced than Great Britain.

The real growth of the movement therefore dates from the Chicago Meeting in May 1893. Then, the Countess of Aberdeen, the wife of the present Governor General of Canada, was elected President of the International Council; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Mrs. MacLaren were requested to take such steps as they considered advisable to bring about the formation of a National Council in the United Kingdom. Lady Aberdeen threw herself with her accustomed energy into the difficult task of organizing a National Council of Women in the Canadian Dominion; and in this country, after lengthened negotiations, the National Union of Women Workers, which included representatives of many of the largest women's Societies, undertook to act as, and to develop into, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. The work of organization, therefore, has been commenced in this country under the happiest auspices for its future success; and arrangements are now being made to hold the next meeting of the International Council of Women, in London, next June, when hopeful reports, we believe, will be presented as to the progress of the movement in the British Colonies, and in other European countries, and also concerning the success already achieved in North and Central America.

In brief, it is proposed that in future the International Council shall meet once in five years in order to hold a congress of women from all parts of the world, representative of the National Councils of other countries, and of all the women's Societies in the country in which the meeting is held. With regard to the Congress next year, we learn that there is a well assured prospect of a most successful gathering. The Congress will be divided into a number of sections, of which the Professional will, naturally, to us and our readers be the most important, and concerning the organization of which we give the preliminary details in another column. With regard to the Nursing Section, the details are now being arranged, and we hope to be able to comment upon this special section at some length, at an early date.

Annotations.

ARMY NURSES SWEATED.

IN many respects the organisation of the Army Nursing Service is very defective, the most glaring defect being that the selection of Probationary Sisters on trial is made by a medical man, instead of by the Lady Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service; and we feel sure that the latest order emanating from the Army Medical Department in relation to Army Sisters would never have been suggested if the Head Sisters of the Service had a justifiable position of authority, and had power of expression relating to their own affairs, instead of being absolutely ignored as they are under existing regulations.

It is almost incredible that an order should have been lately issued from the War Office compelling Army Sisters to be on duty night and day, and we can only express a hope that this cruel and ill-judged order may be speedily withdrawn.

In the larger Military Hospitals, a Supernumerary Sister is appointed, so that the Sister deputed to do night duty (and see that the male orderlies are awake) rests in the day; the present arrangement of only a week's night duty at a spell is very disorganizing, but is at least a more humane arrangement than that which is to come into force in the smaller Military hospitals, where no Supernumerary Sister is appointed, and whereby a woman, after a long day's arduous labour, is to be compelled to be on duty (if necessary) at night, and who will therefore be held responsible for the efficient care of the patients night and day.

Such an order is an outrage on good sense and feeling, and we are glad to hear that some of the Army Nursing Sisters have had the courage to protest against it; and we can only hope that the Army Medical Department will not persist in their barbarous proposition. Should they do so, the matter should be brought to the notice of the Queen, who is the Head of the Army Nursing Service, as it is incredible that Her Majesty has given her consent to so obsolete and inhumane an Order.

NURSING NOVELISTS.

WE think that all well-trained nurses will unite in condemning a practice, which it would appear, is adopted somewhat widely by a certain section of attendants on the sick. A journalist writes to a contemporary that he has for forty years of professional life advocated the employment of trained nurses in cases of serious

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