

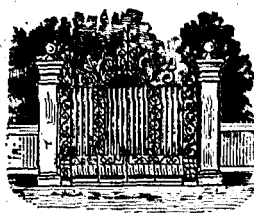
from the hospitals in which they had been engaged, and account for any interval of time in their nursing career when not engaged in hospitals or nursing associations."

"With a view of giving nurses already engaged in nursing work in this and the neighbouring colonies, but not able to show the qualifications above stated, an opportunity of joining the association at any time prior to March 31st, 1900, the following three rules were assented to, the third of these being proposed by Dr. Thring for Dr. Fiaschi, who has taken great interest in the association:—"Any nurse who has been trained at a training school for nurses for a period of two years, and has obtained her certificate as a nurse from that training school, shall be eligible for registration up to March 31st, 1900, subject to the approval of the council of the association." "Any nurse who has been trained in a private hospital, containing not less than 10 beds, for a period of five years, and who has been trained at that hospital under a matron who holds a certificate from a training school for nurses, and who can produce certificates of competency from two reputable medical practitioners, shall be eligible for registration up to March 31st, 1900, subject to the approval of the council of the association." "Any nurse who can show to the satisfaction of the council that she has been engaged for not less than three years in the bona-fide work of medical and surgical nursing, either in hospitals or in private nursing, and can produce certificates of competency and good conduct satisfactory to the council from at least three reputable medical practitioners as to her nursing attainments and repute, shall be eligible for registration up to March 31st, 1900, subject to the approval of the council. Provided always that the council shall have power in any case to direct that any candidate under this rule may be examined in practical nursing by three examiners appointed by the council; and provided, further, that in the case of nurses registered under the rule the qualification in the register shall stand as 'admitted by the council under the provisions of rule 18a.'" Accounts were presented showing a balance of £129 12s. to the credit of the association. It was announced that the register, or roll of members of the association, showing their qualifications, was nearly ready, and that the council of the association proposes at early date to submit a list of hospitals and training schools for recognition under its rules, and to deal with the course of training and study considered necessary for nurses."

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, in commenting on the meeting, says:—"A very important part of the work done at this meeting consisted in laying down a definition of what entitles candidates to membership. This is one of the rocks upon which an association of this kind might easily make shipwreck. On the one hand, a lax definition would admit many persons who, while they adopt the garb of the trained nurse and undertake a nurse's most critical duties, are without the training or the aptitude essential. In that case the association would lose caste with the public, and its membership would injure instead of benefiting the competent nurse. On the other hand, a too strict definition would exclude many entitled by long service and skill, and this would not only produce undesirable misunderstandings among nurses, but lead the public to regard the association with some disfavour."

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Most welcome news reaches us from Melbourne, namely, that the Government of Victoria intend to bring forward a Bill in the autumn session providing for the enfranchisement of women, in order that they may be able to vote for the election of members to the first Parliament of the Commonwealth (*i.e.*, the Federal Parliament). The present Parliament will expire by effluxion of time in November, so it is much to be hoped that before its dissolution it may carry through the proposed measure for the enfranchisement of women. Speaking recently at a meeting at Bairnsdale, at which the Premier and the other ministers attended with the object of unfolding the Ministerial policy, Mr. Shiels, the treasurer, said that a Women's Suffrage Bill has passed the Legislative Assembly on several occasions, but each time it was rejected by the Legislative Council. He added "it is noticeable, however, that each time the measure was sent to the Council it received more considerate treatment than on the previous occasion, and we hope that next time it goes to the Upper Chamber it will be passed. I have always advocated one adult, one vote, as I think every man and woman in the community who is not attainted with crime, is entitled to vote for the people's House. That is the bed-rock principle of true liberalism, beyond which it is impossible to go any further. There can be no truer or more complete liberal system of government than government by the whole people for the whole people. I never could understand how any right thinking impartial person could continue denial of the franchise to one-half of the tax-payers of the country. At the present time we have our soldiers in the Transvaal for the purpose of compelling the Boers at the point of the bayonet to give the franchise to our countrymen there, and yet we deny the same privilege to our sisters in Victoria. The enfranchisement of the women would lead to politics being more discussed in the domestic home and better understood, and would result in the family vote being recorded solidly."

Such a pronouncement on the part of a minister in proclaiming the policy of his Government is most satisfactory. Slowly—very slowly—the right of the woman taxpayer to a share in the Government which she helps to support is becoming recognised, and sooner or later she must obtain this modicum of justice. As usual, our colonies are ahead of the Mother Country. When Women's Suffrage forms part of the programme of a Liberal Government in this country, we shall have some belief in its liberal principles, but while any Government calling itself Liberal denies to women this elementary right it is Liberal only in name.

The Bishop of London, in speaking recently on education at a meeting of the Association of Principals and Lecturers in Training Colleges under Government Inspection at the Imperial Institute, said that the difference between girls and boys was that a girl

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