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Editorial.

THE EVENT OF THE WEEK.

AS we go to press the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland is holding its third Annual Conference, of which we hope to give a full account in future issues. These Conferences have now become an event to which many members look forward with pleasure, and it was a happy inspiration which led to their being held in the place of those which formerly took place on the evening of the days of the quarterly Council meetings. There is no busier class of people than hospital Matrons, whose duties are of an unusually exacting nature, and as many of the members of the Council hold provincial appointments, it was manifestly impossible, however much they might desire it, that they should come up to town once a quarter. By holding an Annual Conference on two consecutive days in the summer it was hoped that the London and country members might thus be enabled to meet, to discuss the many questions of professional and public interest which are constantly brought before them in connection with their work, and that the occasion would also afford an opportunity

of social intercourse. The two previous Conferences have amply justified the wisdom of the change, and one of their most pleasurable features has been the presence of a considerable number of country Matrons, and the renewal and consolidation of old friendships, as well as the formation of new ones. With regard to the need and usefulness of such a Council, the value of professional co-operation is abundantly evident from the value of the work which it has performed during the past year. Through the agency of the Matrons' Council the constitutions of two most important Societies, the International Council of Nurses, and the National Council of Nurses of this country, have been defined, and other duties of professional importance have been undertaken.

Heartily do we wish to the Matrons' Council this year the same usefulness and success in its deliberations as have marked preceding ones. We are convinced that the forcefulness which has characterised its work in the past will be increasingly felt in the future, and we hope that as the Council has been to ourselves, so it will prove to any increasing number of our colleagues, a fruitful source both of pleasure and profit.

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