

Medical Profession is duly represented on the Council. The number of hon. members is 8.

2nd. In May last the Council decided to recognise a number of the larger hospitals whose course of training for nurses was known to include the teaching required, and after due consideration a schedule was drafted showing the course of training deemed necessary as a minimum, and this was forwarded to the authorities at every hospital, the name of which appeared in the directories. From a number of these the Council hopes to receive assurance that the training of Nurses will be carried out on the lines laid down, and the names of these hospitals will then be added to the list of those recognised, and entitle Nurses trained in them to registration.

The Rules for the formation of an Auxiliary Branch of the Association for Midwifery Nurses, drafted in the first instance by a Sub-Committee, have been carefully considered by the Council, and are now recommended for the consideration and adoption of the members at the Annual Meeting.

The subjects which the Council proposes to deal with in the coming year are—

- (a) The formation of small Executive Committees of the Association in other Colonies to deal with local business and bring the Association more in touch with the Nurses and Medical Practitioners residing therein. By this means it is believed that the influence of the Association would be largely increased. The Council has, up to the present, been so fully occupied that it has not yet been able to undertake this necessary work. Up to the present Nurses in other colonies seeking registration have communicated direct with the Hon. Secretaries, and it has not been possible to place before them the aims and objects of the Association so fully as is advisable.
- (b) The formation of Auxiliary Branches of the Association for Midwifery and Mental Nurses.
- (c) The initiation of a Benevolent Fund is a scheme which the Council feels should be undertaken at as early a date as possible. Such a fund has been established in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association, and is called the "Helena Benevolent Fund"; and in connection with the National Pension Fund for Nurses in Great Britain there is also a Fund called the "Morgan Benevolent Fund." The object of these funds is to afford temporary assistance to Nurses who may be incapacitated by illness and other causes, and are in need of such assistance.

The question of a Pension Fund has engaged the attention of the Council, but it is considered that with its present number of members, no scheme could be devised which would be either practicable or safe. The Pension Fund in Great Britain was, at its start, helped by donations which amounted to upwards of £70,000, which, with the contributions from Nurses, have placed it in a condition of unimpeachable solvency, its accumulated funds amounting to upwards of £500,000.

In a calling in which the work is frequently very laborious, and in which there are special dangers from infection, from disease, and from accident, the need of such a fund is apparent, and the Council feels that the general public, who benefit so much from the devotion and care of trained Nurses, may be fairly asked to help

in placing this fund on a satisfactory basis. Such help has been generously accorded in Great Britain, and it is hoped will be forthcoming here.

The Council has already to thank one of the members of the Association for generous help in this direction. Nurse Duffy has placed a bed in her Home at the disposal of the Council for the accommodation of Nurses who are sick and in need of hospital care, and this has been already occupied for several weeks during the current year.

The Council desires to thank the Editor of the Australasian Medical Gazette and the Council of the New South Wales Branch of the British Medical Association for the use of a room in which to hold its meetings at a merely nominal charge for gas, and to acknowledge and place on record its appreciation of the very valuable assistance which has been so generously and ungrudgingly given by Miss Hargrave, who has acted as Typewriter and Secretary, and who has attended the meetings of the Council and its Sub-Committees.

The Council has a feeling of pride and satisfaction in placing on its records for the year the fact that two of its members, Miss Gould and Miss Johnstone, and nine of the members of the Association (Miss Marion P. Martin, Miss Annie J. Matchett, Miss E. Lister, Miss E. Hoadley, Miss Mabel Steel, Miss P. Frater, Miss N. Newton, Miss Theresa E. Woodward, and Miss Bessie Pocock) volunteered for service, and have for several months been engaged in active and arduous work in the war in South Africa, and that seven of its members have been on duty at the Quarantine Station throughout the epidemic of Plague which has pressed so hardly on the community—and have throughout rendered the most devoted service.

In CONCLUSION,—The Council feels that the Association is likely to prove of great benefit to the Nurses themselves, to the Hospitals throughout Australasia, and to the public in general; to Nurses, by promoting their interests generally, and regulating and improving their education as a class; to the Hospitals, by helping to replace the untrained Matrons and Nurses who have hitherto done duty in so many of the country districts, by those trained and certificated, and as such registered in accordance with the Rules of the Association; and to the public generally, not only by fixing a higher standard of training and proficiency for those engaged in Nursing, both in hospitals and private homes, but by giving an opportunity of distinguishing, by means of the Register, between skilled and unskilled labour, between Nurses trained and experienced and those who possess neither qualifications.

F. NORTON MANNING, President.
A. E. MILLS } Hon. Secs.
S. B. MCGAHEY }

On the 20th of this month the Mayor and Mayoress of Sydney (Sir Matthew and Lady Harris), are giving a *Conversazione* in the Town Hall, to which 1,500 guests are invited to meet the members of the A.T.N.A. It is hoped then to establish a Pension and Benevolent Fund. The Governor will probably be present. Lady Mary Lygon, the Governor's sister, is patroness, and she together with ten other ladies at Government House, have kindly consented to be present on that occasion.

Sydney, New South Wales, July 15th, 1900.

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