

The American Nursing World.

We are officially informed that the affiliation of the two great National Associations of Nurses in the United States, the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and the National Associated Alumnae of Graduate Nurses, is now complete, under the title of The American Council of Nurses, and that they have thus carried into effect the wise advice of Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the President of the International Council of Women, to combine and affiliate with the National Council of Women of the United States. For the first time nurse delegates will attend the Executive Meeting of the Council at Minneapolis.

The history of the further organization of American nurses is very instructive. Last year they had two influential societies both working for the elevation of their profession, but isolated in so far as they were quite distinct, though in complete sympathy. Then good fortune brought half a dozen thoughtful trained nurses to the great Congress of Women, held in London last year, and we had the pleasure of placing before them the value of international co-operation in the nursing field, and also in the wider sphere of women's work in every branch of labour.

Next we learn that Mrs. Sewall is in active correspondence with American nurses, giving them the benefit of her wonderful powers of organization, and suggesting the most effective methods by which they can obtain practical representation and power upon the National Council of their country. Miss Dock read an extract from Mrs. Sewall's letter at the last annual meeting of the Associated Alumnae, as follows:—

"These various organisations all seem to have a distinct and fine work before them; but all these seem to me to legitimately belong to a National Nurses' Society; and while, if there should be a national organisation of superintendents, and another organisation of normal students, &c., &c., each one of them, if national, would be eligible to membership in the National Council of Women of the United States, I feel that the entire profession would be stronger if all these should be regarded merely as parts of your National Society of Nurses, and should come into the Council through having your National Society of Nurses enter the Council. Moreover this would be much cheaper. The triennial fee of the societies in the National Council is one hundred dollars. To have that paid by your society as a whole would certainly be much less expensive to your profession than to have the same fee paid by many different national societies of nurses, each one covering a certain phase of the work. Let me try to emphasise the fact that there is no possibility of any organisation which belongs to the National Council becoming subordinated

by the National Council. Every society retains its full integral identity. It is in no way obstructed or directed in the execution of its own work; it simply has, through its affiliation with the Council, the greatest possible opportunity of making its work known among women workers of all classes, and thus of augmenting its own numbers, and strengthening its position in dignity and influence. . . . Any state society must be stronger if made up of local groups rather than of individual members.

Later in the same meeting, Miss Breeze, Chairman of the Committee of Affiliation with the National Council of Women, said that the Committee had drawn up the following resolutions, which were submitted to the convention and carried unanimously:—

"Whereas, the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, and the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, having each under favourable consideration the step of entering the National Council of Women of the United States; and

"Whereas, the suggestion made by Mrs. Sewall that the organized bodies of nurses in the United States could affiliate together and enter the National Council of Women under some such title as 'The National Council of Nurses,' or 'Council of American Nurses,' having been favourably considered by both bodies;

"Resolved that the Associated Alumnae of the United States and the American Society of Superintendents do affiliate under the title 'American Council of Nurses,' and apply for membership in the National Council of Women under this title—it being understood that other bodies of nurses nationally organized are eligible to affiliate with the 'American Council of Nurses' for the purpose of sharing this membership in the National Council of Women. It shall be understood that this affiliation does in no way interfere with the constitution or special objects of any affiliating society.

"Resolved further, that each society thus affiliating shall appoint two (2) of its members, all of whom together shall choose one member at large, and that these members appoint their own chairman and constitute an Executive Board to carry on all relations with the National Council of Women, and shall give a yearly report of same to each society affiliated under the title 'American Council of Nurses.'"

The American Council of Nurses is, therefore, an accomplished fact, and the Council and Executive of both the National Associations which have combined to form it, have been invited to form the Committee of Arrangements for the forthcoming International Congress of Nurses, to be held in Buffalo in September, 1901. Official invitations are to be sent to all the influential Societies of Nurses in the various countries, in the hope that many will make an effort to be represented by one or more delegates. We know by past experience that all will receive a delightful welcome, and it is always good and stimulating to enlarge our experiences on professional questions by exchanging views with our colleagues.

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