

RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR.

We will now review very briefly the chief events of the year in the nursing world of Great Britain.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

It will be remembered that in 1899 an influential Provisional Committee was formed with the purpose of organizing an International Council of Nurses. This Committee, which met in London in that year, authorized the British members to draw up a Draft Constitution for consideration. This duty was accepted, and in due time the proposed Constitution was circulated to all the members of the Committee, in the various countries, with a request for their comments and criticisms. It was also forwarded to the American Society of Superintendents, the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, and the Associations of Nurses in Holland and Denmark, with the same request. The list of the Provisional Committee was forwarded to each member with the request that she would nominate a President, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer from amongst their number. At the meeting of the Provisional Committee, held in London last July, the criticisms of the Draft Constitution were carefully considered, and after some alterations had been made, in accordance with these suggestions, the Constitution was adopted. The balloting papers returned showed the election of the following officers:—President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Great Britain; Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, United States; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Snively, Canada. It was decided, in view of the cordial feeling expressed by the Nursing Associations in the United States, that the meeting of the Council next year should take place in Buffalo, and that an International Congress of Nurses should be held at the same time and place. Miss Dock and Miss Snively were deputed to organize the Congress, with power to add to their number, and it is satisfactory to learn that they have associated with themselves thirty of the most prominent nurses in the United States, including the Executive Committee of the American Society of Superintendents, the National Associated Alumnae, Miss Damer (President of the Buffalo Nurses' Association), and the Councillors of the International Council of Nurses resident in the United States, and that preparations for the Congress are well under way.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The year has been one of some importance in the annals of the Matrons' Council. The Bye-Laws have been revised and amended, and the Constitution of the National League of Cer-

tificated Nurses has, after much discussion, been authorized.

At the meeting of the Council held in February of this year, the following resolution was passed:—

"That in the opinion of this Council the system of nursing the sick in Naval (or Military) Hospitals is unsatisfactory and in need of re-organisation. The Matron's Council therefore petition the First Lord of the Admiralty (or the Secretary of State for War) to receive members of that body as a deputation, so that they may be enabled to lay before him their views on the necessary reform in the Nursing department of these services."

On behalf of Mr. Goschen, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Civil Lord, expressed his willingness to receive a Deputation. The President, and three of the Hon. Officers, therefore waited upon Mr. Chamberlain, and presented, on behalf of the Council, a draft of the reforms suggested. They were most courteously received, and their suggestions were discussed at length by Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir Henry Norbury, the Director-General, who was also present.

In answer to the Resolution sent to Lord Lansdowne (the Secretary of State for War), an answer was received expressing Lord Lansdowne's regret that the present pressure of public affairs prevented him from receiving the Deputation. A Resolution was also forwarded to the London Obstetrical Society, expressing the conviction of the Matrons' Council that a three months' training is inadequate to prepare mid-wifery pupils for the responsible practical work which devolves upon them after obtaining the certificate of the Society, and urging that candidates for its examination should be required to produce either the certificate of a general nurse training-school, or evidence that they are bona-fide pupils of such a school.

It is much to be regretted that this Society, which takes upon itself the responsibility of certificating women to take entire charge of cases of natural labour, should have refused to consider this Resolution sent to them by an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses.

In July a two days' Conference was held, at which able and interesting papers were read and at which many of the country members were present. At the Conference several important resolutions were passed, one on the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and another on the importance of the organization of Government Offices dealing with the nursing of the sick on an efficient professional basis, under the direction of a trained and certificated nurse. This was in due course forwarded to the Departments concerned. Another resolution authorized

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