

retaries, and seventeen members, of whom five are duly qualified Medical Practitioners, five Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses, five Sisters and Nurses, and two Hon. Members.

Difficulties arose when registration began, but these have all been overcome, and the Association is now firmly established. Early in its history the Council realised that a grave injustice was being done by excluding from membership a certain section of the Nursing profession who were not fortunate enough to receive their training when a three years' course was compulsory. In order that no one should be excluded who had a claim to be registered, a concessional clause was drawn up and passed by a large majority, consisting chiefly of Nurses who held certificates covering a period of three years' training in hospitals. To all those who were eligible to register under this clause a period of three months was granted, during which time they were at liberty to make application. Those desirous of registering were required to produce proof that they had been employed for not less than three years in the bona fide work of medical and surgical nursing, either in Hospitals or in private work. Such candidates had to furnish certificates of competency and good conduct from three reputable Medical Practitioners as to their qualifications, etc. The Council retained the power to examine applicants concerning whose qualifications doubts were entertained. This course had to be resorted to in a few cases, the majority of whom satisfied the examiners.

A register has been published in which the qualifications of each nurse appear, except in the case of those who were admitted under the concessional clause; then, instead of the qualifications, the words: "Admitted by the Council under the provisions of Rule XXI." are inserted. In the beginning of the register the Constitution is printed, and Rule XXI. explains the conditions under which such candidates were accepted.

Since April 1st, 1900, the following conditions have had to be complied with by those who were received as members:

Candidates for registration must produce proof—

- (a) That they have been engaged for three years in general Hospitals recognised by the Council and containing not less than forty beds; or
- (b) That they have been engaged for four years in a country, district, or suburban Hospital recognised by the Council and containing not less than twenty beds, and have been trained at that Hospital under a Matron or Nurse who holds a certificate from a Training School for Nurses recognised by the Council of this Association; or

(c) That they have been engaged for five years in a private, country, district, or suburban Hospital recognised by the Council and containing not less than ten beds, and have been trained at that Hospital under a Matron or Nurse who holds a certificate from a Training School for Nurses recognised by the Council of this Association.

Furthermore all candidates must give references as to their moral character, produce certificates of competency from the Hospitals in which they have been engaged, and account for any interval of time in their nursing career when not engaged in Hospitals or Nursing Associations.

The membership of registered nurses has increased considerably; at present 406 are enrolled, besides these sixty-four medical practitioners have joined the Association, amongst whom are the leading physicians and surgeons of Sydney. The Nursing profession in New South Wales is deeply indebted to the Members of the Medical profession who have helped the Association since its inception, some of whom have given much of their valuable time to further its interests in a variety of ways.

In March, 1901, a circular letter was sent to several of the leading members of the Medical profession and Nurses in the Australian States and New Zealand asking them to take steps to call Meetings with a view to the formation of branches of the Association throughout Australasia. As already stated, many nurses residing outside New South Wales have been registered; of these there are seventeen in Victoria, eighteen in Queensland, four in Tasmania, three in South Australia. No doubt branches in several of the States will soon be formed, as the nurse members in many of those States are anxious to have local centres established.

An auxiliary branch of the Midwifery Nurses in connection with the Association was formed during the latter part of 1900, and up to the present date fifty members have been enrolled. These Midwifery Nurses have a separate register, and are entitled to attend at the General Meeting of the Association to elect one of their members to represent them on the Council of the Association. In this country a large majority of Midwifery Nurses have not had any general training before taking up this speciality. During the past few years many more General Nurses have studied this branch of nursing than was customary previously. The qualification for membership is a certificate proving that the candidate has received six months' instruction in practical and systematic training at one of the Maternity Hospitals in Australia recognised by the Council of the A.T.N.A. Furthermore, the candidate is required to have

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