

passed a satisfactory examination before a competent board of examiners. Candidates trained in European or American Maternity Hospitals in which the course of training is equivalent to the standard required in the Australian Hospitals are eligible for membership.

A Schedule setting forth the minimum amount of training which will be accepted by the Council of the Association, has been sent to each of the Hospitals in Australasia, and those not prepared to adopt it or whose number of beds does not fulfil the requirements laid down by the Association cannot be recognised. Moreover, the Matrons are required to be qualified nurses, capable of instructing pupils placed under them. Matrons registered under the concessional clause are not considered sufficiently qualified to hold such positions, and the Hospitals with which they are connected have not been recognised.

The Council, in its efforts to protect the interests of trained nurses by refusing to recognise Hospitals where trained Matrons are not appointed, is receiving considerable support from the Government Medical Officer in Sydney, who is about to issue a circular letter to each of the Country Hospitals subsidised by the Government requesting them to inform him when any change is to be made in their Matron, and before any appointment to that position is effected to submit to him the name of the nurse together with her qualifications. It is only fair and just to Nurses who spend five years in Hospitals acquiring a knowledge of their profession, that vacancies for Matrons should be filled up from their ranks rather than from those who have had little or no training.

In July, 1900, a Benevolent Fund was established, and, although the sum subscribed is small, yet hopes are entertained that it will be increased. Already one of the members of the Association has received a small amount from the Fund to enable her to take a holiday after a protracted illness.

Three of the members of the Association who have Private Hospitals have each put a bed at the disposal of the Council for any nurse members who may require medical or surgical treatment.

Soon after the inauguration of the A.T.N. Association, a Society of Nurses was formed in connection with the Prince Alfred Hospital Training School, Sydney. This Society was named The Prince Alfred Hospital Trained Nurses' Reunion; the greater number of whose members are also on the Register of the Association. The certificate of the Hospital is sufficient qualification for membership. Several Meetings were held during the year, at which papers were read, which were both interesting and instructive.

The list of members has now reached 100; as each class graduates new members are enrolled.

Nursing has made considerable strides during

the past ten or twelve years throughout Australia, and a great future is predicted for it.

The conditions under which the nurses work have much improved. Modern Hospitals have been erected and nurses' quarters replete with all the necessary comforts are now established in connection with most of the leading Hospitals. The daily average off-duty time for pupils and nurses is three hours, in some Hospitals two days' holiday in the month are given besides. The annual holiday is two or three weeks. An eight hours' day for Nurses has not yet been introduced in any of the Hospitals in the Australian States, but in a few of the New Zealand ones this system has been in force for some time.

The course of training in the larger schools is for three years; at the Prince Alfred and Sydney Hospital, Sydney, the period has been extended to four years.

The Curricula vary in the different schools, in some the course of instruction has been considerably increased. At Prince Alfred Hospital, Midwifery Nursing, Dispensing, and Housekeeping have been added, and it is proposed to deal with those subjects during the fourth year of training. Practical and theoretical examinations are held at the end of each year. To the practical examination a much more important place has been given than was customary some years ago.

The non-payment system does not exist to any extent in the Australian Training Schools, in a few a premium is required to be paid by the pupils on entrance, but the majority give some remuneration to the pupils during their period of training.

It is hoped soon to see a preliminary training School established in connection with one of the large Hospitals; this preliminary education would be a distinct improvement on the system now in force. According to existing arrangements, selected candidates are taken into the Hospitals on trial and their services are retained if found suitable after a reasonable period of probation. This system has had its disadvantages, but the preliminary training school would rectify many of these. Some of the advantages of such a school would be:

1. Those who had to deal with the raw material would be saved unnecessary worry and trouble.
2. The inefficient and incapable pupils would be dispensed with before gaining admission to the wards, and the constant changes amongst pupils of the first year would, to a certain extent, be minimised.
3. The patients would benefit in a variety of ways.

The only drawback to such a school has been the expense which it would entail—at present the income in many of the Hospitals' is barely suffi-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)