

and importance of a Directory maintaining a definite standard of three years' training and certification, and brought out under professional control that the maximum completeness, and therefore value, can be secured.

THE REGISTRATION OF MIDWIVES.

Early in the year the Matrons' Council communicated with the Council of the British Medical Association, asking if that body would be willing to receive a Deputation to express the views of the Council on the Registration of Midwives, as it affects Trained Nurses. The British Medical Association replied, asking the Matrons' Council to present its views in writing. To this request the Matrons' Council, having regard to the usual fate of written memoranda, felt compelled to reply that "after due consideration they have decided not to communicate their views in writing as they are of opinion that no useful purpose would be served by this method."

THE MIDWIVES' BILL.

Upon learning that the new Bill for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives to be presented to Parliament this session by Mr. W. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., was to be drawn on the same lines as that of 1900, providing for the Annual Licensing, and not the permanent Registration of Midwives, and providing also for their control by County Councils and County Borough Councils, upon which women are not eligible to sit, the Matrons' Council passed the subjoined Resolution, and directed that, together with a Resolution already sent by it to the Obstetrical Society of London, this should be forwarded to bodies interested in the subject, and to Members of Parliament:—

Resolution passed at the Meeting of the Matrons' Council, held November 21st, 1901:—

"That it has been publicly announced that a Midwives' Bill will be brought before Parliament next Session providing that women who desire to practice as midwives must obtain an Annual License to do so from County Councils or County Borough Councils, and, as no women are eligible to sit upon such Councils, midwives would, therefore, be placed under the control and supervision of entirely unprofessional bodies, composed, moreover, of men only.

"The Matrons' Council consider it necessary to point out that such legislation would place midwives in a most anomalous and defenceless position; that this would undoubtedly deter trained nurses from undertaking such work, and that in various ways it would be most detrimental to the interests of the poor."

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

Most important of the work of our Hon. Members during the past year has been that of Mrs. Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals in New Zealand, who has worked unceasingly in support of the Bill introduced into the New Zealand Parliament, for the State Registration of Nurses, and

by whose efforts, combined with those of Dr. MacGregor, the Inspector General, its successful passage into Law was mainly secured.

Mrs. Hampton Robb, who, since its formation in 1897 has filled with distinction the Presidency of the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, has this year retired from the position. She has held the post for five successive years, and seen the society grow from a small beginning into a splendid national organisation. She feels, however, that grooves are not 'healthy in young organisations, and that change of Presidents will be beneficial, and she is strongly in favour of bringing in new interest into Associations with which she is connected.

Miss McGahey, Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, has given ample evidence of her interest in all that concerns the advancement and organisation of nursing by attending the International Nurses' Congress at Buffalo, and also visiting many of the hospitals in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, and studying the educational methods in force. Miss Dock, the Hon. Secretary, and Miss Snively, the Hon. Treasurer, of the International Council of Nurses, who were deputed by that body to make the arrangements for the International Congress in America, succeeded in forming a strong Organising Committee, which carried through the arrangements for the Congress, with the success now well appreciated.

Of our own members our President, Miss Isla Stewart, has given much time and thought to the consolidation of the work of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, which she initiated. Miss Stewart also attended the International Congress of Nurses in America, and presented a paper on "Hospital Administration in Great Britain," and took an active part in the discussions.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as President of the International Council of Nurses, presided over its deliberations at the meeting held in Buffalo in September, and delivered an address. She was also elected Hon. President of the International Nurses' Congress, at which she read a paper on "State Organisation and Legislation for Nurses," and on "A Plea for the Higher Education of Nurses," in the Temple of Music on Trained Nurses' Day.

Miss Sidney Browne is still on active service in South Africa, and her colleagues have learnt with pleasure that for her distinguished services she has been awarded the honourable Order of the Royal Red Cross by His Majesty the King.

Miss Barling, who is much interested in the State Registration of Trained Nurses, has taken energetic steps to bring the reasons for such legislation before local Members of Parliament, an example which it is to be hoped may be fol-

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