

equal proportions. Thus a Council of Nurses might be formed in each country representative of every nursing interest, which would be eligible for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, so that in a very simple manner, every graduate nurse would have voting power direct, or through the chosen Delegate of her Training School League, in the National League, and also in conjunction with the Superintendents in the National Council, and yet still further in the International Council of Nurses.

The National Council would act as the supreme representative of the Nursing Profession in its own country; would be able with united power to make representations to the Government of the country on all nursing questions; it should organize a Parliamentary Department, and so focus and co-ordinate the local influence of every one of its component Societies, and through them the personal influence of every individual nurse, with members of the Legislature, that in any Act dealing with, or relating to, nursing matters, the interests of the Nursing Profession should be completely protected and safeguarded. Finally, through its representatives upon the International Council, it would obtain and disseminate throughout its own country, for the information and instruction of its component Societies and their members, news of what is transpiring in the nursing profession, and of all that tends to the improvement of Nursing, in every other country in the world. And so we arrive at the crown and apex of the organization as I have sketched it out.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The objects which it is hoped this new body will be able to attain in the future will be to draw together the Nursing Councils of the different nations; to diffuse amongst them professional information from each country which will be useful to all; to unite together and thus strengthen the efforts for professional improvement which may be made in any country, by the assistance and advice of the nurses in other lands. And above all, to arrange for the holding of International Congresses in different countries, on the same grounds as those which have made such meetings so valuable in the past, for the general consideration of important nursing matters, and for the determination of questions which are of common interest and importance to the Nurses in every country. Such then, in brief, are the suggestions which I would make for the organization of Nurses; each country, of course, carrying out the principles by its own methods, and by details which seem to each to be most appropriate.

Passing on, now to the second branch of my subject,

THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

I would suggest a measure in broad outline, which would, I imagine, be easily adaptable, and with variation of details equally applicable, to every country. It being admitted that the nursing of the sick is a matter which closely affects every class of the community, and that it is therefore of extreme importance to the public welfare that those who undertake the responsible duties of sick nursing should be, not only absolutely trustworthy from a personal point of view, but skilled also in their technical duties, it follows that it is the duty of the State to provide public safeguards in this matter. It is, therefore, suggested that the Legislature in each country should pass an Act forming

A GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

This body should be empowered to deal with all educational matters affecting Nurses, that is to say, to define the precise curriculum through which every woman must pass before she can be certificated as a trained nurse. It must define the period of her training, and the subjects of her education; and no Nurse would then be permitted to offer herself for examination until she produced a schedule duly signed by the Matron of her training school testifying as to her general good conduct and practical proficiency, and by the lecturers upon the different subjects in the curriculum, testifying that she had attended the regulation number of lectures and demonstrations on each subject. It would be the duty of the General Nursing Council to appoint examiners, and hold examinations, and to grant to candidates who passed those examinations a State Diploma in Nursing. It would be the duty of the Nursing Council to register nursing qualifications. It is probable that it would call into existence Nursing Colleges to facilitate its educational work. The first result, therefore, of the appointment of such a Council would be that a uniform system of nursing education, and a uniform standard of qualification, would be established throughout the country in question. Because, it is almost needless to add, that the Nursing Act would make Registration essential as a qualification to practice; and that no one would be permitted under heavy penalties to term herself a trained Nurse, or to take any fee or reward as such, unless she were duly registered. Then, again, it would be the duty of the General Nursing Council to strike off from their list the name of any Registered Nurse who proved herself to be unworthy of trust and professional confidence. So, on the one hand, the public would be protected against the ignorant and inefficient persons who now can term themselves trained

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