

Nursing Progress in Victoria.

The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, at its Annual Meeting held in Melbourne, was able to show an excellent record of work for the year. It is now affiliated with the National Council of Women. It has effected an arrangement with the Australian Mutual Provident Society for a specially-prepared table for nurses as to pensions; it has established a Benevolent Fund, of which a proportionate amount is devoted to a sick fund; and it seems probable that during the next year the question of State Registration will engage the attention of the Council.

At the Annual Meeting the President, Dr. Springthorpe, occupied the chair, and called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the third Annual Report. It is interesting to note in this Report the working of the voluntary system of examination by a Conjoint Board of medical men and Matrons inaugurated by the Association. The following are extracts:

RETURNS FROM TRAINING-SCHOOLS.

"During the year reports have been received from the different training-schools as to the way in which they are carrying out their educational obligations. It is gratifying to find that, in the vast majority, sustained attempts are being made to provide trainees with all the necessary facilities. In a few instances, however, certain shortcomings have made themselves manifest, and it will be the duty of the incoming Council to take such steps as will prevent the repetition of unsatisfactory results, even in exceptional cases.

EXAMINATIONS.

"With but few exceptions, the training-schools are now sending their trainees up for examination before the Conjoint Board of Examiners, although such is not compulsory, with hospitals of over forty beds, until June, 1905. The examination papers (with satisfactory answers in both medical and surgical nursing) have been published in *Una*, and the report of the Conjoint Board upon the examinations themselves is appended. The examinations for the special certificates in Midwifery and Gynæcological Nursing have been conducted in the Women's Hospital, with—as in the examinations before the Conjoint Board—a representative of the Council present as one of the examiners, and the results have been eminently satisfactory. It is intended during the year to select from the 'Dietary of the Sick,' which appears in monthly parts of *Una*, certain portions which will be compulsory upon trainees going up for all final nursing examinations.

THE WORK OF THE COMING YEAR.

"Your Council recognise that, though much has thus been done to achieve the objects for which the Association was formed, much more remains to be attempted before anything like complete satisfaction can be attained. The routine work of the Association has now grown to large proportions, the management of the different examinations involves forethought as well as careful execution, and the maintenance of efficient teaching throughout the different training-

schools calls for constant vigilance. The establishment of *Una* upon a thoroughly financial basis demands the co-operation of all, whilst its standard and contents are a constant source of care to the Editorial Committee. Further, the need for, and lines of, development have to be remembered. In this category your Council ask the co-operation of members in the early selection of a preliminary educational test, in the establishment of a course for future Matrons, in a satisfactory scheme for ending defective training (mainly surgical) in the smaller hospitals, and in the providing of some at least of our own text-books. During the coming year, also, your Council will do its utmost to increase the Benevolent Fund, to improve the professional position of members, to check the manufacture of improperly-trained nurses in private hospitals and elsewhere, to secure that members have the call at the hands of the medical profession, and that the public generally are made thoroughly aware of the gulf between the registered and the unregistered nurse."

The President, in proposing the adoption of the Report, urged upon the members that it was very desirable not only that the hospitals should send their notes to *Una*, but also that the nurses, whose official organ it is, should write for it. It was the desire of the Editorial Committee that the journal should be written by nurses for nurses, and this was entirely in their own hands.

Miss Amy Burleigh, Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, said, in seconding the Report, that it was one of which the Association might feel justly proud. Although the Council had no wish to sing their own praises too loudly, yet the result of their efforts was not altogether ungratifying. "In this new country," she said, "we have already attained to a height which has not been reached in the old world. We have an Association of trained and registered nurses. We hold examinations which compare not unfavourably with those held elsewhere, and we have the nucleus of what we all hope and believe will speedily grow into a flourishing Benevolent Fund. What we want is the active sympathy and interest of every member of the Association."

Miss Brayshay, the Honorary Secretary, referred to the primary motives which actuated the formation of the Association. "Were they not," she said, "that we recognised that in our midst were two growing evils which were indirectly causing our profession—instead of being a credit to us—to become a reproach and a by-word. One was that, side by side with our nurses trained in our public hospitals, there was a rapidly increasing large body of women calling themselves trained, and claiming all the privileges of such, but who had obtained what knowledge they had in a perfunctory way; some from a few months in public hospitals, others in private institutions, and some in no schools at all, but picking up what they could at individual cases. Having cast out the demon of ignorance in the old utterly untrained nurse, and swept and

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