

ificates of registration of the branch shall be signed by the President of the A.T.N.A., in addition to the President and Secretaries of the branch; that members of the branch shall have all the privileges of members of the Association; that in future recognition of hospitals in the States shall be by the Branch Council, subject to confirmation by the parent Council.

The question of State Registration is receiving the consideration of the Council, and it is hoped during the coming year to bring the matter before the Association. Owing to the large area covered by the Association the problem of uniform central examination is still unsolved; the Council states that the formation of branches in each State would go far to solve the difficulty.

The statement of account to June 30th shows that the Association has a balance in hand of £555 11s. 3d.

Some resolutions were proposed in relation to the midwifery members, and privileges conceded to them which it is hoped will prove satisfactory to both general and midwifery members.

Miss S. B. McGahey, late Matron of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, has opened a private hospital in that city.

Miss Gould has been appointed Lady Superintendent in New South Wales of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

Miss Charlotte Smith, recently Matron of a hospital in Brisbane, has been appointed a Matron of the Queensland Army Nursing Service.

### Nursing in Fiji.

An interesting account is given by the *Australian Nurses' Journal* of the Government Hospital, Fiji, where the theoretical teaching for pupil nurses is divided over three terms or sessions in each year. The terms begin on January 15th, May 15th, and September 15th, and each one extends over thirteen consecutive weeks. An interval of a month thus elapses between terms, during which the nurses are relieved from lectures and enabled to devote all their attention to ward work, to the Matron's teaching, and to their notes and textbooks. This arrangement also facilitates the granting of the annual holiday in due rotation. The bright and airy class-room built last year has been supplied with several anatomical models of the best kind, and a first-rate articulated skeleton. A Major Ross's "diagnostic" microscope and appurtenances, a number of the most lately published wall diagrams, and a quantity of physical and chemical apparatus and models have been added. The articles were selected in London last year by the Chief Medical Officer, and have been sent out by the Crown Agents for the

Colonies. The probationers are encouraged to model the viscera and certain of the bones in plasticine, this method being found useful as a supplement to the demonstrations in the *post-mortem* room, for impressing familiarity with the form and dimensions of those structures, and even their relative positions in some cases. While no pains are spared by the medical staff to make the technical teaching as thorough as possible, and as far-reaching as a nurse's career demands, the ward training in practical nursing and the cultivation of the humanitarian and ethical side of the pupils' characters is no less carefully watched over by the Matron, who, of course, is a member of the A.T.N.A. Applications for training at this hospital have lately been received from candidates in England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; but the pupil nurses, now five in number, happen at present to be all members of families resident in Fiji itself.

### The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

The *Melbourne Argus*, writing of the above Association, says:—"The Royal Victorian Nurses' Association is unique, in that it is more complete and comprehensive in its aims than any other like association in British countries. The reason for this is that in Victoria the difficulties that lie in vested rights for preparing and turning out nurses has been almost entirely overcome. In former years, nurses were examined and certificated by individual hospitals, and the system proved faulty, for it meant that while one hospital might thoroughly train its nurses, and might prepare searching and exhaustive examinations, another might permit the tests to degenerate into a mere form. The system now in force in Victoria, and willingly accepted by all the large general hospitals of the State, is that of a set curriculum and examinations prepared by leading medical men, and Matrons who are certificated nurses. The result is that all certificated nurses in this State have passed the same standard. Further than this, the course, which is a three years' course, is only a basis for special work. In midwifery, a nurse must now hold her certificate as a general nurse before she can take up this special department. The same rule holds in the surgical treatment of women, and in the preparation as a nurse for eye and ear work. The board of the Nurses' Association hope shortly to have the same system in regard to lunacy and mental work. At present, nurses in such asylums begin with little or no knowledge of any kind of nursing. They are quite unskilled. It will be greatly to the advantage of asylums, of patients, and the public generally, when women before adopting this line of the profession hold their general nursing certificates.

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