

sive nation, and of one hampered by traditions of bureaucracy, respectively conduct the affairs of the nation. As the Council was not accorded the privilege of a report from the Matron-in-Chief of the Military Nursing Service, it seemed, Mrs. Fenwick said, unnecessary for an outsider to apply for official information. Both Miss Stewart and she herself, who were present at the meeting, had taken an active part in advocating Army nursing reform for many years, and could probably tell the Council more of the past history of the movement than the authorities of the War Office.

#### LEGISLATION.

##### I.—Registration.

The President then read the following Report:—

*In Great Britain and Ireland.*—Since the last meeting of the International Council of Nurses in 1901 I have to report progress in the better organisation of nursing, both in special sections and in the work at large.

Prominent amongst the objects of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland since its foundation in 1894 has been "to bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British hospitals," and it had a standing Sub-Committee to deal with the matter. In 1902 it was felt that the work had outgrown the powers of this Sub-Committee, and a Society was therefore formed having for its sole object "To obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses." The success achieved by this method has been most encouraging. In two years over 1,200 well-trained nurses have joined the Society, and it has received the support of influential members of the public. A Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses has been drafted, and has been introduced into the House of Commons, and the Prime Minister has now promised the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the whole Nursing Question, including that of Registration. The organisation of graduate nurses in Leagues has also proceeded, somewhat slowly, as is the fashion in our conservative country, but their formation in each case has been warmly received by the graduates of the school concerned. The further union of these Leagues and of self-governing nursing societies has made the affiliation of English nurses with the International Council of Nurses a possibility. They have formed, by delegation, a Central Society which will act as a provisional committee, until the number of nurses so represented is 5,000, when the full formation of a National Council will be considered.

Since our last meeting, the British Army Nursing Service has been radically reorganised, and it is satisfactory that nearly every reform urged in connection with this department by the Matrons' Council has now been adopted. This is especially gratifying, as at the time when Miss Stewart, the President, on behalf of the Council, presented its memorandum, on the occasion of a deputation being received at the War Office by the late Secretary of State for War, to urge improvements seemed to be to lead a forlorn hope. To Mr. St. John Brodrick, late Secretary of State for War, belongs the credit of being the first Minister to place the contro-

of a Government Nursing Department under a Nursing Board upon which trained nurses have seats, and to appoint a trained nurse as its Matron-in-Chief.

It is to be regretted that in drawing up new Regulations for the Navy the same organisation has not been adopted by the First Lord of the Admiralty. So long as a Nursing Department is merely an appendage of a Medical Department, and is not supervised by experts, it can never perform the best work of which it would be capable under better conditions of organisation.

A Nursing Board has also been appointed to advise the Secretary of State for India with regard to nursing appointments.

The President then called upon Miss L. L. Dock to read Miss Sophia Palmer's Report:—

*In the United States of America.*—When the last International Congress of Nurses was held in Buffalo, New York, in September, 1901, the movement for Registration was only just beginning in the United States. New York, Virginia, and Illinois had taken the initiatory steps towards the formation of State Associations for Nurses for the purpose of establishing Registration, but these organisations were then incomplete, and the questions of eligibility for membership and the standards of education upon which Registration should be based had not even been taken up for serious consideration.

To-day, with less than three years intervening, Registration is in active operation in four States—North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia, with the law established in Maryland.

The nurses in four other States have completed the organisation of State Associations, presented Bills to their respective Legislatures, and been defeated. One of these, the Illinois Association, succeeded in having its Bill pass both Houses of the Legislature, to be vetoed by the Governor, and the others, those of Massachusetts, Iowa, and the District of Columbia, have preferred to withdraw their Bills rather than accept the conditions under which they could have been passed this year.

Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Connecticut, Michigan, California and Louisiana have State Associations in different stages of development, while in Colorado, Minnesota and West Virginia there is agitation in the direction of State organisation for Registration. Thus it will be seen that Registration of Nurses is in all stages of development in the United States, from the actual issuing of certificates in the four States first mentioned, to the agitation preceding the formation of State Associations.

New York, Illinois, Virginia, New Jersey, and North Carolina did the pioneer work, the nurses of these States working independently to a much greater degree than was wise; consequently the first Bills drafted were quite unlike in their requirements.

New York made a long, hard struggle for a Board of Nurse Examiners and won in the end; the North Carolina nurses were satisfied with a Board of Examiners composed of three nurses and two physicians; New Jersey asked for no examiners, only for a licence to practise without educational requirements of any kind; the Virginia Bill was very like the New York Bill; while the Maryland law, the last to be secured, is a decided improvement upon them both in its educational requirements, and it is to be hoped

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