

years ago even at the Johns Hopkins) the pupil will be qualified for registration at its termination.

In Italy especially, where the wardmaids and orderlies (*infermiere-inserviente*) do so much of the routine cleanings and fetchings and carryings, nurse-pupils have more time for lectures and studying, and for actual nursing; therefore two years' training is deemed sufficient. As a matter of fact, I largely doubt whether the longer period of training be not the outcome of expediency for the hospital, and the shorter one be not the better method for the nurse and, consequently, for the patient. It is almost certain that a large proportion of the finer material gets injured, or even lost to the profession, by the strain of long repetition of mechanical routine work (ward cleanings, that of instruments, &c., &c.), resulting in nervous exhaustion, inception of infection, with resultant delicacy in one or other point, whilst nurses who have been given the same amount of theoretical instruction and of practice in nursing in the shorter period of time are not only equally efficient as nurses, but more evenly balanced and healthier in mind and body, and, consequently, more capable of good work and quite equally worthy of registration.

International Nursing News.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Speaking editorially, *Una*, the Journal of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, says:—

"We publish elsewhere in this issue the first portion of an account of the proceedings of the First Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held at Berlin in June under the presidency of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, its founder. The objects of the Council, in the words of the President, are: 'The promotion of greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, of international communication between nurses, and of International Conference.' With nursing elevated to the dignity of a profession, with rapidly-evolving ideas on matters educational and ethical, with systems widely varying in different countries for the carrying out of these ideas, such an institution as the International Council was necessary for the interchange of thought among leaders of the profession, by which means alone can uniformity be attained. To effectively organise the nursing profession of the whole world on co-operative lines, as has been done in the case of the United States by the formation of the American Federation of Nurses, may at first sight seem impossible; but, with National Councils of Nurses actually existing, it should not be a very difficult matter with an International Council to arrive at an agreement of essentials.

"The Berlin meeting was in every sense a representative one, Great Britain, the United States, and Germany contributing between them nearly a hundred delegates, among whom were many who have taken an active and a leading part in nursing reform. The R.V.T.N.A. was fortunate enough to be represented by the President, who has shown great interest in our Association; and in Miss

McGahey's report, read in her absence by Miss Breay, sympathetic and complimentary reference was made to the R.V.T.N.A. and its Journal. It is to be hoped, however, that at the next Quinquennial Meeting we may be able to send a delegate of our own, who will be able to put before the members our methods of organisation and the lines on which our aims are directed. It comes as a surprise to us here to learn that Germany has as yet no nursing journal, and we may congratulate ourselves that we have thus early in our career as an Association become possessed of a medium for the expression of the nursing mind; but if we are to have a voice that shall outside of our own country appeal to the nursing world as suggestive and helpful, we shall not rest satisfied with present standards and methods, but make such improvements therein as follow from our increasing experience, or from the results of kindred institutions in countries like the United States, where, from circumstances favouring higher education and more complete organisation, ideas are more quickly put to the practical test of experiment. The nursing profession in England has learned much from American methods, and a visit of inspection and study from a Victorian representative nurse could not but prove of great advantage to ourselves.

"We take this opportunity of congratulating Miss McGahey, late Hon. Secretary of the A.T.N.A., on her election to the position of President of the next Quinquennial Meeting—a well-deserved tribute to one who has done much for Australian nursing. And it is to be hoped that her term of office will be signalised by the formation of an Australasian National Council of Nurses—a federated branch of the great International Association."

A letter has been received from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Sec. International Council of Nurses, addressed to the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, which should receive attention at a conveniently early date. It is proposed to call a meeting of the Provisional Committee in November to consider the contents of the letter.

After a visit to Denmark, Miss Dock is settled in Berlin for some months to come. She is busy studying German, of which she has already an enviable knowledge.

Welfare of the Feeble-Minded.

A conference organised by the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded and the National Union of Special School Teachers will be held at the Guildhall on October 13th and 14th. Four members of the first-named Association have been nominated to serve on the Royal Commission recently appointed to inquire into the subject of the care of the feeble-minded. The conference will be presided over by the Lord Mayor.

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