

There is one piece of recent legislation in N.Z. that will affect nurses, namely, a provision made in the Public Health Act, 1903, for the inspection, licensing, and registration of private hospitals, under the Department of Public Health.

The President invited Miss M. Brey to read Miss McGahey's report:—

*In Australasia.*—Fellow-workers,—It is, unfortunately, not my privilege to meet you again on the occasion of your Quinquennial Meeting in Berlin. Instead I must send you my most cordial greetings, and wish you, if possible, an even more successful reunion than we had in Buffalo in September, 1901. At the request of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses, I am sending you a brief sketch of our work in the Australasian States since our last meeting in Buffalo. During the past two years, pressure of work at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, has prevented me from taking as active an interest as formerly in nursing matters outside my own sphere of labour. Extensive additions have recently been made to the Royal Prince Alfred, which, when completed, will bring the bed accommodation up to 456. Structural alterations in the administrative buildings have also been carried out. These and many other improvements have engaged a large amount of my attention, and added considerably to my ordinary work.

Steady progress has been made in nursing organisation in Australasia during the past few years, but it must be admitted there is still a great amount of work to be accomplished. As yet, we have no preliminary training-schools, no post-graduate courses for nurses who have severed their connection with their hospitals, and no State Registration. In the sister island—New Zealand—State Registration for Nurses has been in force for more than two years. It is a matter of regret that the Committee of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, were unable last year to carry out their projected scheme for establishing a preliminary training-school for nurses in connection with that hospital. The matter was duly considered and approved of by the Board of Directors, but, owing to the falling-off in the subscriptions, due to the protracted drought, they considered it advisable to wait till the outlook was brighter. The drought is now a thing of the past, prosperity is returning to our sunny clime, and very soon the Royal Prince Alfred Preliminary Training-School will be an accomplished fact.

The Matrons' Council of New South Wales has now been in existence for eighteen months, and has amongst its members the Matrons of the leading hospitals in the State. The standard of nursing is higher in the country hospitals than formerly. This is due in large measure to the active interest awakened by the Councils of the Australasian and Victorian Trained Nurses' Associations. The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association has now been in existence since August, 1899, and has a membership of 804 nurses, independent of fifty-six medical and eighteen honorary members.

The number of recognised training-schools in Australasia, exclusive of Victoria and New Zealand, is sixty-nine. The Council of the Association are fully aware of the fact that small country hospitals have not the facilities for training pupils, and they have made suggestions as to the rectifying of this difficulty. Unfortunately, the Committees of these hospitals have

not adequate funds at their disposal to pay for the services of fully-trained nurses, and their only alternative is to pay one or perhaps two trained nurses and take in pupils. When State Registration comes, these partially-trained women will fare badly, when they present themselves for examination with fully-trained nurses from up-to-date hospitals. As yet, the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association have not seen their way clear to appoint a Central Examining Board. This matter will receive consideration shortly. An informal meeting was held quite recently in Sydney to discuss State Registration for Australasia. This subject will be fully considered at a meeting of nurses which will be convened at an early date.

According to the rules of the Australasian and Victorian Trained Nurses' Associations no registered hospital can appoint a Matron who is not a member of either Association. This course has been adopted to prevent hospital committees from appointing untrained nurses to such positions. In January, 1903, the *Australasian Journal* was started. It is a quarterly publication, and has been found to answer the purpose for which it was intended. During the past winter, lectures were delivered to the members of the Association. These were well attended and much appreciated. Quite recently, a letter was sent to the Association signed by several Queensland doctors and nurses asking to have a branch in Brisbane, and this matter is now receiving the consideration of the Council.

The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association was founded in June, 1901, and has now a membership of over a thousand nurses. All the leading public hospitals in Victoria are recognised as training-schools. The minimum period of training is three years and no nurse can be registered who has only received a course of training in a special hospital. Last year the Victorian Association appointed a Central Board of Examiners. At regular intervals they hold examinations in Melbourne and the sub-centres. This Association can also well be proud of its quarterly journal *Una*, which has recently completed its first year of existence. Henceforth it will be published monthly. Between the Australasian and Victorian Associations a basis of reciprocity exists. This arrangement has been found to work very satisfactorily.

Early last year the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association sustained a severe loss in the death of its much-respected President, Dr. Norton Manning. From the inception of the Association he held that position, and by his tact and great powers of organisation he tided the Association through many of the difficulties that beset it, and brought it into smooth waters.

We are, to a certain extent, organised through our associations, and, that being now accomplished, State Registration for Nurses will not be such a difficult matter to carry into effect.

In conclusion, let me congratulate those of you who have already obtained it, and wish you every success, and may I also express the hope that those who are now working in that direction will soon see their wishes gratified.

The President called upon Miss Mollett to read Dr. Moffat's report:—

*In South Africa.*—I beg to express my appreciation of the honour conferred on me when your President

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