

ledge of obstetric nursing—whose services are greatly valued in many departments of work. The nurses trained in these schools would certainly be eligible for Registration by any Nursing Council which may be created under a Registration Act, and it is only right that Poor Law Matrons should confer together, and make their influence felt in connection with any Bill which may be introduced into Parliament.

A private meeting of the principal Matrons of the hospitals and institutions in the South Hants district was held, by the kindness of Miss Forrest, at the Victoria Nursing Institute, Bournemouth, on Tuesday last to consider the advisability of organising a public meeting in Bournemouth for the discussion of State Registration.

In Massachusetts a new campaign is being planned, and the members of the Committee feel confident of success in passing a Bill during the coming winter.

### International News.

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* for October has a leading article on the subject of the International Council of Nurses, which says:—"Recently-received copies of the British and American nursing journals contain full reports of the first quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Nurses held in Berlin on June 17th.

All agree that it was most successful, and we heartily sympathise with Miss Creal in being prevented, by her unfortunate accident, from taking a part in the proceedings as our accredited representative.

Great progress in organisation has been made since the inauguration of the Council in 1899 at the International Congress of Nurses. At that meeting there was a general feeling that a nurse's profession made her essentially a cosmopolite, and that she might well disregard the artificial barriers which still, in spite of the spread of civilisation, divide the great human race into a number of disunited communities, more or less mutually antagonistic. Her work being the care of sick, wherever her lot might be cast, she was not concerned with the creed, colour, or political views of her patients. What, however, did concern her very much was everything that would assist her to do her work better, and also to take that position among her fellows to which she was entitled as a member of a skilled and noble profession. For this nothing could be of greater service than better mutual knowledge, and a stronger bond of sympathy and union between nurses all over the world.

It was decided, therefore, to form tentatively an International Council of Nurses, the objects being,

to quote Mrs. Fenwick, the retiring President, who has done so much for the Council, "the promotion of greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, of international communication between nurses, and of international conference."

The splendid attendance at Berlin, and the enthusiasm of all the representatives, show that the scheme has passed beyond the experimental stage, and that an International Council of Nurses has become an accomplished fact.

The first Council was formed by a simple banding together of representative nurses present at the Conference; but it is intended that in future admission to membership shall be through national organisations, and it is hoped that in time all the nations will have National Councils of Nurses, formed of representatives from the local Nursing Leagues or Associations, and that these will send their delegates to the International Council.

In this way only can the great Council be really international in scope and represent the nursing ideas of the whole world. It is a magnificent ideal, and the progress already made gives reason to hope that its realisation is not far distant. Already, as the result of quiet, steady work in England, America and Germany, the Hon. Secretary, Miss Dock, was able to announce that all these three countries have established National Associations, all of which applied for affiliation with the International Council, and were accepted on that basis.

A great distinction was conferred on Miss McGahey, the first Hon. Secretary of the A.T.N.A., in appointing her the next President of the Council—a fitting acknowledgment of her untiring zeal and devotion to the work of organising the nursing profession in Australia. Members of the A.T.N.A. will all join in congratulating Miss McGahey most heartily on her appointment, and while doing so, we may justly feel that a compliment of a very high character has been paid to the whole nursing profession in Australia. It should serve to remind us that, though far away, our fellow-nurses in the old world are closely following our doings, and have recognised that we are well to the fore in matters of organisation. As an instance, it may be mentioned in passing that in an article in the June number of the *Nineteenth Century* (well worthy of careful reading and thought), urging the State Registration of Nurses in England, Miss Isla Stewart (Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital) says:—"New South Wales and Victoria have a thoroughly organised voluntary registration in force." The others are moving on, and if we are to keep our position, we, too, must advance, if only to show that the compliment paid to us was not unmerited. Let us take care that when Miss McGahey takes the seat of honour at the International Council in 1909 she shall be entrusted with the duty of applying for the affiliation of the National Council of Nurses of Australia."

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