

This corps, through its Council, could gradually take up such work, which is certainly wanted.

(F.) *Self-Government.*—This proposed movement would if carried out, give to the Nursing Profession as distinct an autonomy and self-government as is enjoyed in most organised professions. It would associate in one body the various disunited and scattered elements of Nursing in the metropolis. It would develop social intercourse between the Nurses. The development of professional efficiency would follow out a combination as is here suggested. There is to-day very considerable ignorance as to "How to become a Nurse," and there is distinct room for a Society to protect the Nursing community. All this could follow from the suggested Corps.

We hope Miss Nutting, of Johns Hopkins Hospital, who is collecting material for a History of Nursing, will note this item of information.

#### IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Colorado State Nurses' Association, which was organised in the spring (says the *American Journal of Nursing*), is now getting down to business along the lines of registration, and is at work now upon a Bill. Rhode Island has organised, and we hope soon to hear that West Virginia is in line. The winter promises to be one of great agitation in the registration movement, there being, we have reason to believe, at the least thirteen States that will attempt legislation this season.

Whatever the outcome, the movement is one that enlightens and binds the workers more closely together, and success will come later, if not to all at the same time.

The Pennsylvania State meeting, which was held in Philadelphia the last week in October, proved to be a most successful and interesting occasion. The president, Miss Brobson, in her address stated that the membership had increased during the year from 150 to over 500. In every part of the State where meetings had been held new friends had been made for the cause. Several county medical societies had passed resolutions in support of the movement, and the Pennsylvania State Medical Society had not only endorsed the action of the nurses, but had offered the aid of its Legal Committee in the furtherance of the Bill for Registration. Miss Brobson spoke feelingly of the harmonious relations of the members, saying in closing that if the Bill should fail this year, it would not be because of any discord within the Nurses' Association. Taken as a whole, the record for the year has been most satisfactory.

The Connecticut Association met in New Haven on November 9th and had a splendid meeting. A Bill has been drawn, circulated among the nurses of the State, and freely discussed. The Association has been incorporated and is in a most flourishing condition.

The Illinois Association held a meeting on November 9th in Chicago. A new Bill will be presented at the next Legislature. A vigorous effort will be made to carry it through successfully.

The Graduate Nurses' Association of the District of Columbia is again to the front with a new Bill before Congress.

The Ohio nurses are debarred from registration by the constitution of the State, which provides that only voters shall hold State offices. This makes a Nurse Board of Examiners impossible. Like the nurses of Louisiana, the Ohio nurses have first to obtain an amendment to the State Constitution, but they are not discouraged.

Miss Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock, secretary of the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners (for registration), has presented a most admirable and interesting report of the year's work, to which we shall refer more fully as space permits.

We notice that she remarks that "The curricula of the training-schools applying for registration show that the practice of sending out pupils to earn money for the hospital is entirely obsolete among those of the highest grade, and it would seem only just that some restriction should be placed upon those hospitals still following the custom, which are asking for the same recognition for their training-school."

There is no doubt that nurse sweating would be stamped out by registration, and the pupil nurse and the public protected by legislation. That is why it is needed.

Failing just laws for nurses in the mother country and in Canada, it is significant to note that the Toronto General Hospital Training-School for Nurses has registered as a school under the New York Board of Regents. How about our boasted Imperialism? Surely if our crusted conservatism in things nursing compels our colonial nurses to register in a "foreign" country, it is time the interested opposition to legal status for nurses in this country was over-ruled. It is making us ridiculous in the opinion of our own people beyond the seas.

#### A Popular Appointment.

It is with pleasure we announce that the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital have appointed Mr. H. Wingfield Cross as Estates Clerk to the Hospital. Mr. Cross, who was admitted a solicitor in the year 1891, has, for the past eight years, held the post of Assistant Secretary to the Hospital, and is a son of the late Clerk who recently retired after 38 years of service. Few public officials have a more honourable record, or have gained such universal respect as Mr. Cross, and we are glad the authorities of the hospital have found that they cannot do without a chip of the old block.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)