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## Nursing in 1904.

According to our usual custom, we are devoting space in the last issue of the JOURNAL in the present year to reviewing the most important events of professional interest to nurses during that period.

### ORGANISATION.

#### AT HOME.

Organisation is proceeding slowly but surely, and we note with pleasure the formation of two more Nurses' Leagues, that of the Parish of Nottingham, with Miss Dwight, Matron of the Bagthorpe Infirmary, as President, and that of the Bethnal Green Infirmary Nurses. Already, these Leagues are appreciating the necessity for some point of contact with one another, and, with their colleagues in other countries, and a Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland has been founded until such time as those represented upon it number 5,000, when steps will be taken to constitute it fully. At present the Societies represented (each by six delegates) are the Matrons' Council, the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, the Irish Nurses' Association, the Leagues of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, St. John's House Nurses, and Chelsea Infirmary Nurses, Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, the Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League, and the Registered Nurses' Society. This Provisional Committee, by affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, will form the connecting link between British Nurses and those of other countries who have entered into affiliation with this International Council.

#### ABROAD.

Abroad we have evidence that the need for organisation is felt and is proceeding.

*In Germany* the courageous band of women (some 400) associated together in the German Nurses' Association, under the Presidency of Fraulein Agnes Karll, stand for the right of nurses to organise on professional lines, retaining their personal liberty, instead of merging their identity in, and giving their earnings to, religious societies. In working for such societies, nurses cannot decide what work they will undertake, they must live in community under rule, the recompense being that they have no anxiety as to old age, as they are pro-

vided for by their society. While some prefer to embrace this method of life, it is not one which appeals to all, and women who have the capacity should certainly be able to adopt nursing as a means of self-support without being compelled to enter the conventual life, without possessing any vocation for it, as a means to this end.

*In France*, although the organisation of nurses into societies is not yet begun, the organisation of nursing is proceeding. Dr. Anna Hamilton, whose Thesis on Nursing gave such an immense impetus to the movement, has given an object lesson as to training-school methods in connection with the Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux, with the result that two more schools have now been founded in Bordeaux on the same lines, at the Hôpital of St. André for religious Sisters, under a Superior, and at the Hôpital du Tondu, with Miss Elston, a late London Hospital Sister, as Directrice. These hospitals in their turn will, no doubt, prove centres of future progress.

*In Paris* Mme. Alphen Salvador, President of the "Association pour le Developpement de l'Assistance aux Malades," is striving to raise the standard of nursing, and to induce educated women to take up this work. The Sisters working in religious orders have been entirely removed from the Paris hospitals, the only one now remaining in their hands being the Hôtel Dieu. Their place has been taken by secular nurses of the servant class, and as is invariably the case, the results leave much to be desired. The difficulty in Paris has been to find suitable training ground for a desirable type of woman. An effort was made to meet the need by the establishment of two small hospitals maintained by private enterprise, one being endowed by Mme. Alphen Salvador. There is no lack of pupils, for there are more applicants than the school can receive. Now the value of the training given in these hospitals is thoroughly recognised, and the Director of the Assistance Publique, who realises that the work of the private hospitals is a useful collaboration of his own, and has shown the way in which administration should proceed, has opened certain medical, surgical, and lying-in wards in the public hospitals to the pupils of the Association.

*In Austria* efforts are being made to improve the nursing care of the sick, and the Governmental Public Hospitals Department has recently established an institute for training lay nurses according to modern

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)