

ideas, and the Association for District Nursing in Vienna is also urgent on the point. It is difficult for British nurses to realise the difficulties which beset nursing reformers in Roman Catholic countries, where the nursing is mainly in the hands of Religious Orders. The Sisters owe their allegiance primarily to the head of their Order, and in any divergence of interests it is the Order which is paramount. The extreme conservatism of ancient foundations is also an additional obstruction, added to which clerical domination, and the military obedience required of members of these Orders, make progress very difficult. The best hope of improvement lies in the organisation of nursing schools, apart from the Sisterhoods, though the difficulty is to obtain pupils of the Roman Catholic faith—which, being the faith of the country, is that of the large majority—to take up the work in apparent antagonism to the Religious Orders which are very tenacious of their supremacy in the hospitals.

In the United States splendid work is being done and organisation is proceeding on the best lines, viz., that of grouping the graduates into Alumnae Associations, which, combined in the National Associated Alumnae, are a force in the country. The latter Association is also united with the Society of Superintendents of Training-schools into the American Federation of Nurses, the affiliation of which with the International Council of Nurses, is within measurable distance. Nurses throughout the world owe much to their American colleagues for the example they have set of enthusiasm and of devotion to public work in advance of professional interests.

IN THE COLONIES.

In the Colonies, with the exception of those where Registration is already in force, organisation is most advanced in New South Wales and Victoria. The Trained Nurses' Association of the latter includes practically all the nurses of the Colony, a uniform curriculum of training and examination has been introduced, the training-schools have come into line, and, with but few exceptions, are sending their trainees up for examination before the Conjoint Board of Medical and Nurse Examiners, whose report is subsequently published in *Una*, the official organ of the Association. The Registration of nurses in the colony is at present voluntary, but already the question of securing legal status by State Registration is engaging the attention of the Association.

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, which has its headquarters at Sydney, New South Wales, has also introduced a voluntary system of registration and publishes a Register of its members, as well as a professional journal. So far, it has not organised a central examination, owing to the difficulty of the problem of making adequate

arrangements for a very large area. The Council states that the formation of branches in each State would go far towards solving this difficulty.

The question of State Registration is receiving the consideration of the Council, and is very shortly to be placed before the Association.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

One of the chief events in the nursing world this year was the Session of the First Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held in Berlin in June. Nurses were present from Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, Germany, France, Canada, Denmark, Holland and Sweden, and the foreign representatives were welcomed with great cordiality by Fraulein Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, and was at the expiration of her term of office unanimously elected Hon. President, with a seat on the Grand Council for life. The officers appointed for the next Quinquennial period were—President, Miss S. B. McGahey (late Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia); Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock (United States of America, who had already rendered invaluable service in this capacity); Hon. Treasurer, Miss Margaret Breay (Great Britain).

A resolution in support of the principle of State Registration of Trained Nurses was carried unanimously.

Those who were present at the meeting will not soon forget its inspiration. The Nursing Session held in connection with the International Congress of Women on the previous day, under the presidency of Frau Krukenberg, was also of great interest.

REGISTRATION.

The present year has been memorable for the great prominence given to the question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The hard work of the last seventeen years, and since its formation in 1902 of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which now numbers over 1,360 certificated nurses, has forced it to the forefront. With the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the expediency of the Registration of Trained Nurses last June, the public and national character of the movement became apparent, and the growing interest taken in the subject throughout the country is unquestionable. The large and varied interests involved have been very plainly indicated in the evidence already received by the Committee, which met seven times, and subsequently recommended to the House that a Committee be appointed in the next Session of Parliament to continue the Inquiry. The present moment is one for all supporters of the principle of Registration to block out side issues and minor con-

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