

1903 been deleted, so that it is useless for purposes of reference, and that the Roll is now only revised once in three years. As a matter of fact after the new Bye-Laws had been thrust through in 1897 many nurses lost interest in the Association and resigned their membership, and the expense and the work connected with maintaining and publishing the Register and its annual revision was found to be greater than the Association could undertake.

There are no difficulties connected with the issue of a Register which cannot be overcome by a competent professional body, but that the task will be one of magnitude involving considerable expense is certain.

It is presumable that within a few years from the passing of a Registration Act a Register containing the names of from 50,000 to 100,000 nurses would have to be issued. This would involve the employment of a competent Registrar, who, of course, must be a trained nurse to understand the various technical points involved. The Medical Register, a bulky volume, contains some 35,000 names, and the expense of compilation, tabulation, printing, publishing, and issuing a monumental work containing two to three times this number of names can only be estimated by an approximate scale of cost. We are informed that the Medical Register, in which only comparatively few interpolations and corrections are necessary annually, costs upwards of £800 for the printing and publication of an issue of 2,900 copies. We are unable to ascertain the cost of office expenses and labour because these form part of the general expenses of the Registrar's Office. Presumably it is within the mark to put them at £200. At the very lowest estimate, therefore, we may put the whole expense of issuing the Medical Register at £1,000 per annum. This amount must certainly be doubled in estimating the cost of issuing a reliable Register of Trained Nurses, so that the issue of this official list would necessitate the Registration of 2,000 nurses annually at the guinea fee, and leave absolutely no balance on which to conduct the rest of the business of this great professional corporation, with its multitudinous and expensive duties.

#### THE REMUNERATION OF THE NURSING COUNCIL.

The next point for consideration is the remuneration of the members of the Central Council. For ourselves we object to taking it for granted that all the work involved could, or should, be performed as a matter of charity. We do not consider that the services of the most desirable persons from either a medical or a nursing point of view would be secured by this method.

In the case of the General Medical Council each member receives £5 5s. per day during the Sessions of the Council.

The work which will devolve upon the Central Nursing Council will be much more arduous than that of the General Medical Council, and if it is to secure the services of the most desirable members, both from the medical and nursing standpoint, they must receive adequate payment.

In connection with the Central Midwives' Board no provision is made for the remuneration of the members. At present the Board is fortunate in possessing the services of two midwives who have been largely instrumental in securing the passage of the Midwives' Act, who understand the question, and have given a great deal of devoted service to its work. So long as a few enthusiasts are alive

the question of securing the services of competent midwives on the Board will not become acute, but in years to come there is no security that the services of the most desirable midwives will be forthcoming.

It would be interesting if Miss Paget would give some estimate of the numbers of hours each week which she devotes to work connected with the Central Midwives' Board.

It is eminently desirable, both as regards medical practitioners and nurses, that the Central Nursing Council should be in a position to secure the services of members whose time is of monetary value, for which they must consequently be recompensed, for it is futile to suppose that the work of the Council could be satisfactorily carried on unless it met at least twice a month; the remuneration must, therefore, be proportionate.

It is, of course, impossible to estimate the exact amount of work devolving upon the Central Nursing Council until all the details are before that body, but it may be assuredly taken for granted that the work connected with the organisation of the higher education, registration, and discipline of the great and growing body of trained nurses will be a costly one.

It is nevertheless certain that nurses desire to defray themselves the expenses connected with their professional government, and ample proof that they are able to do so is afforded by the fact that a very limited number of them have invested in the course of eighteen years £925,000 in the Royal National Pension Fund.

### The International Congress on Tuberculosis.

At the International Congress on Tuberculosis, which opens in Paris on Monday next, there is to be an exhibition at the Grand Palais, where the Congress is to be held, which will remain open, as a free object lesson to the general public during the month.

The exhibition is designed to demonstrate the ravages made by the disease, and the various methods and appliances used in combating it. The exhibits, which have been gathered from many countries, will subsequently be maintained by the Municipal Council in Paris as a permanent museum on the lines of that established at Charlottenberg by the municipal authorities of Berlin. The first Session of the Congress will be presided over by the President of the French Republic, and a very representative gathering is expected. No less than thirty-three countries have, in response to the invitation of France, organised national committees, and it is probable that nearly 3,000 members will be present from all parts of the world. The reports read will number forty-eight, while no less than 600 communications will be made to the Congress. The work will be divided between four sections—Medical Pathology, presided over by Professor Bouchard; Surgical Pathology, by Professor Lannelougue; the Preservation and Assistance of Infant Life, by Professor Grancher; and that of Preservation and Assistance of Adult Life and Social Hygiene, under the joint Presidency of Professor Landouzy and Senator Paul Strauss.

The value of international congresses is always great, and in the present stage of knowledge a conference on tuberculosis is fraught with possibilities, the results of which are difficult to foresee.

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