

therefore, that now remains to be done is for the nursing profession at large, and not a few hundreds or thousands, to realise their responsibility to the public and to the profession, to use all the influence they can to place evidence in regard to Registration before Members of Parliament, the general public, medical societies, and individual practitioners.

The history of the appointment of the Select Committee in the face of strenuous opposition affords a lesson to women workers, who fail the first time in obtaining what is just and right, to work on until they obtain their end.

South Africa was the first country to establish a system of Registration of Nurses, but on unconstitutional lines, inasmuch as the nurses have no representation on the body which governs them. This system lends itself to the passing of reactionary measures, as in the case of the Orange River Colony, where Registration of Nurses has been established this year under the Medical and Pharmacy Council, under which nurses are liable to discipline for failure to obey the orders of the medical attendant. As exceptional cases might arise in which the nurse would fail in her duty to the patient if she carried out instructions violating her conscience, it is evident that it would be unjust to make such an offence punishable by law.

ORGANISATION.

AT HOME.

Organisation is slowly but surely proceeding on the lines of gathering up the certificated nurses of a school into a League, which League, in its turn, is eligible for affiliation with the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, which links the nurses of the United Kingdom with the International Council of Nurses, and thus widens their knowledge of nursing, and deepens their sympathy with their colleagues in various parts of the world.

ABROAD.

Organisation is proceeding apace in the Colonies, notably in Australasia, where the hospitals are coming into line in regard to a Central Examination, and where educational standards have been instituted for Matrons and nurses, for which certificates of efficiency are to be granted. In Canada the nurses are forming themselves into State Associations for the same objects.

In the United States the Associations of Nurses present a splendid example of solidarity, all the leading Matrons and nurses who are members of them working together for the common good from professional and public standpoints.

France has felt the influence of the general

activity in the nursing world, and there is an evident desire for the organisation of nurse training schools on the lines which have proved successful in England and America. The nurses themselves are asking that Matrons shall be appointed to supervise the training schools, and it is certain that this office must be created and the Matron recognised as Superintendent of Nursing before progress can be made.

In Germany, under the Presidency of Sister Agnes Karll, the German Nurses' Association, which stands for progress and organisation, is increasing so rapidly that it is difficult for its officials to keep pace with the work involved.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The International Council of Nurses has been quietly at work encouraging the formation of Leagues and National Councils. The year is memorable as having witnessed the affiliation to the International Council of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses in this country, the American Federation of Nurses, and the German Nurses' Association, so that the Council now represents between 10,000 and 12,000 trained nurses. The Council has arranged to hold an interim meeting in Paris in June, 1907.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Matrons' Council has faithfully maintained its position during the past year as the only body of Matrons holding a watching brief for the profession generally. Its alertness and usefulness was proved at the time of the recent attempt to place the nursing profession under the absolute control of a society of laymen and a nominated autocratic Council, a most dangerous suggestion, happily averted by a united protest from organised societies of nurses and medical men.

THE NURSING SERVICES.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service has in the past year been augmented by the addition of many well-trained nurses. Its increased efficiency under the supervision of a Matron-in-Chief continues. Up to the present the sister service (Queen Alexandra's Naval Nursing Service) has not the advantage of similar organisation under a Head Superintendent responsible for the good government and efficiency of her department. It is to be hoped that this necessary reform may not be long delayed. It is certainly essential both to the efficiency and the popularity of the Service.

PRIVATE NURSING

It is private nurses who as a class suffer most from the present disorganised and unwholesome conditions under which they are compelled to

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