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Editorial.

THE COMMON GOOD.

The value of conference between those who are mutually interested in the same subject was never more apparent than when Delegates of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association visited Melbourne to confer with the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association. In this country the nearest approach to a Conference on nursing matters seems to be a sort of armed truce, with an umpire to keep the peace. The spirit in which the Delegates of the two Australian Associations approached this important Conference is indicated by the fact that those of the A.T.N.A. who visited Melbourne to take part in the business were entertained by those of the R.V.T.N.A. at a dinner which was arranged to precede the business meeting, and at which the one toast of the evening was "Our Guests."

The subjects under discussion between the two Associations were important and included the minimum number of beds in training schools, the training of nurses in children's hospitals, and private hospitals, in hospitals for chronic and incurable cases, and benevolent asylums, the status of midwifery nurses, the attitude of both associations to a Midwives' Act, the proposal to form a Federal Association, recommendations to trainees, the constitution of special branches of nursing, and certificates of future Matrons.

The result of the Conference was most satisfactory, and proved the great advantage of discussion over correspondence on the points at issue between the two Associations. *Una*, the organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association,

reports that "a satisfactory *modus vivendi* has been arrived at on controversial matters, and an actual agreement upon those which presented less difficulty from the nursing point of view, but which were, perhaps, of more immediate importance from the public standpoint. The dominant note of the Conference was one of cordial co-operation and mutual concession, and the main differences of opinion were found to have their basis on misunderstanding and were easily reconciled. The result of the Conference has thus been a general agreement which will undoubtedly go far to pave the way for that Federated Nursing Association in which each State of the Commonwealth will take its own proper place."

The same view was advanced by the President of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, who stated at the Conference that "the brilliant idea of the Victorian President in having this Conference held would go far towards bringing that day nearer. The differences existing between the two Associations were due to different local conditions, and he was sure they could be smoothed over."

Thus, in the great Australian Commonwealth we have the hospitals supporting a uniform standard and central examinations; and medical men and nurses combining to make the organisation of the nurses' professional associations as perfect as possible, with the ultimate hope of uniformity of standards and professional good government maintained by one great Federal Association throughout the Commonwealth of Australia. This is what may be achieved by unity of purpose for the common good.

Would that such a fine ideal could animate the hospital world at home.

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