

Conference in Paris, with every promise of success.

The result of the foundation of the International Council of Nurses, was to stimulate the formation of National Councils.

At a meeting of the Matrons' Council on October 26th, 1899, Mrs. Fenwick proposed "That the Matrons' Council form a Provisional Committee to consider the organisation of a National Council of Nurses, in view of affiliating with the International Council of Nurses," and the Executive Committee was empowered to act in this capacity. At the next meeting of the Executive on December 8th the President, Mrs. Fenwick, and Miss Breay were appointed as a sub-committee to consider and report on the lines on which a National Council of Nurses could best be formed. In May, 1900, a report was issued and circulated to the members for their consideration and this report was fully discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council in 1900 and a draft Constitution approved.

The organisation of the Leagues of certificated nurses in connection with their training schools, the first being the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, initiated by Miss Isla Stewart, gave the Matrons' Council an opportunity, of which it gladly availed itself, of conferring with organised nurses, and on April 8th, 1904, a well-attended Conference of Delegates of Self Governing Leagues and Nursing Societies, convened by Miss Isla Stewart in her capacity as Hon. Vice-President in this country of the International Council of Nurses, was held at 431, Oxford Street, W., when the Conference recommended that a Provisional Committee be formed of delegates from societies of nurses represented at the meeting, with a view to affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, a National Council to be fully constituted when 5,000 nurses were represented by delegation. At a subsequent meeting on November 25th, 1904, the Provisional Committee formally considered and accepted the invitation of the International Council of Nurses sent by its Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, that it should affiliate. Miss G. A. Rogers, President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, was at this meeting appointed Chairman of the Committee, and Miss E. C. Barton, President of the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League, Hon. Secretary.

The third Society founded by the Matrons' Council was the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

When the Matrons' Council was founded in 1894 one of the primary objects it adopted was

"To bring about a uniform system of Educa-

tion, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals," and from its inception it has always put the State Registration of Trained Nurses in the forefront of its work, and appointed a Registration sub-committee. In 1902 the work of this committee had increased so enormously that at the Annual Meeting in January of that year Mrs. Fenwick asked the opinion of the Council as to whether it was preferable that this Committee should continue to undertake the whole of the Registration work or whether a Society should be formed with the promotion of State Registration as its sole object. The principle of the formation of a separate Society was accepted and it was decided to call a meeting of the Registration Committee to consider its organisation.

At the Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council on May 30th, 1902, the Registration Sub-Committee presented a report as to the preliminary organisation in which it had been engaged. It announced that on February 21st it was decided to invite applications for membership of such a Society from trained nurses of three years' experience, and that it was agreed that further formation should not be proceeded with until at least 100 nurses had applied for membership. Within a week of the announcement of its formation in the *Nursing Record*, 209 applications had been received. The Committee were also able to announce that Miss Louisa Stevenson had consented to become its first President.

The results have amply shown the wisdom of the Council in founding this Society and the work it has been able to do in furtherance of the Registration cause is now well-known.

During the past year the attention of the Matrons' Council has been mainly directed to the consolidation of its work.

On March 8th, Miss M. Mollett, Vice-President, attended with an influential deputation at the Privy Council Office which was received by the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, on the subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and spoke effectively in support of such Registration. The President, Miss Isla Stewart, was unavoidably hindered at the last moment from attending.

The Matrons' Council also, through its representatives on the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses, took part in the organisation of the *Conversazione* arranged by that Committee in the spring, and in that for the very successful Conference and Nursing Exhibition organised in November last by the same Committee.

Our thanks are due to the Editor of the

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