

together in membership of a recognised profession, for their mutual support and assistance; to improve their education; to provide for their proper certification and registration, and to enable them to obtain, when trained, a just reward for their work."

A PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME.

This, then, was the programme which the NURSING RECORD in its first number cordially adopted and pledged itself to support and carry through. It is very remarkable to observe the comparatively rapid progress which was made from the moment that nurses thus obtained an organ in the press devoted to their interests. Nurses became united together in sufficient numbers to attract attention to their demands, and to awaken hospital authorities to the need for improvements in their nursing departments. The issues of this Journal, for the first few years, contained many valuable suggestions from leading hospital Matrons as to much needed reforms in the nursing world, and these were carefully debated week by week by those well able to express an expert opinion. The results of this invaluable publicity in the press, and the free interchange of opinions from all parts of the country, which could have been gathered together in no other manner than in the pages of such a Journal as this, were soon evidenced by steady and consistent improvements in the education of the nursing staff being made first in one hospital and then in another. Then the suggestion made at the establishment of the British Nurses' Association that offices should be opened to bring the public and private nurses into direct communication, and so secure to the latter the full remuneration for their work, bore fruit in the establishment of the Nurses' Co-operation, of the Registered Nurses' Society, and of numberless imitators throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. It is impossible, in fact, to exaggerate the results which the establishment of the co-operative principle has effected in the nursing world. Nurses for the first time obtained the full reward of their labour; then the high standard of training demanded for membership of the Co-operations resulted in the public being better served than they had ever been before. Constant exposures in this Journal of the harmful conditions under which nurses worked in hospitals, repeated and emphasised by its contemporaries, led in 1891 and 1892 to a close inquiry into these matters by a Select Committee of the House of Lords, with the result that enormous improvements have since been made, by the building of splendidly equipped Nurses' Homes at the majority of hospitals and infirmaries, and

equally great improvements in the work, the remuneration, the holidays, and the bedroom and dieting arrangements for the nursing staffs of even the smallest hospitals.

THE STATE REGULATION OF NURSING.

Closely associated with all these reforms, forming, indeed, the goal to which they have all tended, was the demand that Nursing should be recognised by the State, and regulated by Act of Parliament as a skilled profession, for the greater improvement of nursing, and for the greater protection of the sick. All this is included in the demand for State Registration, and as all our readers know, this Journal alone in the English press has for one thousand weeks consistently fought for the establishment of State Registration of Nurses. It has done so in the face of the greatest misrepresentation and abuse, in the face of every possible discouragement, not the least of which has been the luke-warmness of many nurses, and the hostility of a few, to a measure which has proved to be of the utmost value to other professions, and which is now becoming recognised as essential to the future development and highest benefit of the nursing profession. This Journal, however, has had the supreme satisfaction of conveying its arguments for Registration week by week to every part of the civilised world, of finding interest aroused in the question, and then nursing organisation created in many different lands. Finally, it has taken no small share in helping to mould the legislation which has already been effected in many parts of the world.

INTERNATIONAL UNITY.

We can go further, and claim that the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has been the active instrument in creating an International bond of union amongst the nurses of different countries; in voicing their opinions, and conveying their matured judgments on professional matters, to the widely-scattered members of the nursing world.

It is only necessary to add that we now look forward with confidence to the nearly approaching time when the nurses of every nation will be united together in their own National Councils, and when all National Councils of Nurses will be working together for public and professional good, through their affiliation with, and their representation upon, their International Council.

With heartfelt pleasure and satisfaction, then, this Journal can look back upon the record of the world-wide work which it has accomplished during the thousand weeks of its existence, and with equal hopefulness it can look forward to the ever-widening prospects of its work in the future.

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