

International News.

The American Federation of Nurses has generously guaranteed fifteen pounds towards the expenses of printing the Transactions of the recent International Nursing Conference, which will be heavy. Another fifteen pounds will be required, and any donations to this special object will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Miss M. Breay, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Fraülein Ida Schneider, the "Oberin" of the Swiss School for Nurses at Zurich, has written of her interest in and sympathy with the international movement. She had expected to come to the Paris Conference, but was detained by sudden illness. Fraülein Schneider hopes to come to Stockholm, and also has plans for an association of nurses for Switzerland on the lines of the German Nurses' Association.

Progress of State Registration.

The holiday season is now dominant, but we hope that supporters of the State Registration movement scattered far and wide will remember that even while enjoying a well-earned rest they can advance the registration cause. There are still many members of the public who know little about the question, who can scarcely believe that there is as yet no standard of professional knowledge required of a nurse before she is permitted to describe herself as trained, and who are quick to realise the advantages of the establishment of such a standard under State authority, when the question is presented to them.

In the quiet and leisure of country life many opportunities present themselves for discussion of this important question, which those who have the cause at heart will not be slow to utilise. On such occasions it will be wise to insist that the question is fundamentally an educational one, that the public has a right when it pays for expert services to a guarantee that it receives them, that the means of affording this guarantee is by requiring every person assuming the position of a trained nurse to give proof of minimum preparation for such work, and that this minimum preparation should be examined and registered by the State. The public is not slow to see the injustice of the present position to the trained worker, and if nurses will take pains to explain the situation they will be doing good work by helping to form public opinion.

The R.B.N.A. Examination.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has, since it surrendered to the control of an autocracy by the medical Hon. Officers, shown itself constantly out of touch with the nursing world, never more so than in its present attempt to inaugurate an examination for a diploma in nursing.

Twenty years ago such an examination might have had its uses. The State Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament was not then within the sphere of practical politics, and the Association had prestige and influence. Again, if the examination were made the test for membership, the position of the Association would be more comprehensible. But nothing of the kind is suggested. The Hon. Officers say in effect, "If you will submit to an examination and satisfy us of your competence as a nurse we will register you for two guineas. If you don't want to enter for our examination never mind. It really does not matter, and we will register you under these circumstances for one guinea." Nurses may well be excused for asking of what value is this examination, when its own promoters take this line concerning it.

Dr. Biernacki's protest against the pseudo-certification of nurses in fever work when they might never have spent a day in a fever hospital, has not been fruitless, in spite of the opinion expressed by Sir James Crichton Browne at the meeting summoned in April to consider the examination that there was "not much in" Dr. Biernacki's desire for evidence of at least three months' training, and that "a nurse who could gain the diploma of the Association was perfectly capable of dealing with a fever patient, under the direction of a competent medical man, if it were the first case she had ever seen, and he should not have the smallest hesitation in entrusting her with it." It has now been decided to institute a special examination in fever nursing—the candidate to produce evidence of training *and* another guinea. Three guineas for examination by the R.B.N.A.! And yet it is urged by some that £5 5s. is too high a fee for a State Diploma in Nursing.

At the present time it is too late for any system of examination for nurses other than one under the authority of the State, to serve a useful end. And when it is remembered that the R.B.N.A. scheme is the offspring of Dr. Bezly Thorne—to whom the thanks of the meeting which launched it were stated to be "really due"—in conjunction with his colleagues who have practically ruined the Association, it is not surprising that the scheme is

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