

"the advancement in every way of Nurses' professional work," which is quite as complete, and certainly more terse. The Charter gives the journalists power to do this in future, but it is a matter of common knowledge that Nurses have already commenced to work out their suggestions in this direction. Only this week we received a letter from a large county Hospital informing us that its Nursing department had been re-organised, and that the scheme of instruction for Probationers had been founded on the admirable "Programme of Practical Nursing" issued by the B.N.A., and that the Certificate to be awarded to those who successfully completed their training was that suggested by the same influential body. *En passant*, we may say that we have on many occasions been glad to hear, not only from British Hospitals, but from Colonial Institutions also, that these two most practical papers have been welcomed, and adopted as the basis for that uniformity in training and in Certification of Nurses, which everyone feels to be most necessary, but which is at present conspicuous by its absence in the Nursing world.

(C) pledges the Institute "to ascertain the law and practice relating to all things connected with the journalistic profession, and the exercise of supervision over its members when engaged in professional duties." So far as Nurses are concerned, at present this section might remain a dead letter, because we believe we are correct in saying that the calling and its work is entirely unrecognised by statute, and that consequently there is no law to be ascertained. But we would confess to a hope that, when more pressing matters are disposed of, the B.N.A. will consider how its Members can be assisted in some of the legal difficulties, which not unfrequently Nurses—especially those engaged on their own account—meet with in their work.

(D) treats of "the collection, collation, and publication of information of service or interest to members of the journalistic profession." The cognate idea has recently been adopted by the Nurses' Association, and is, we believe, now being carried into effect in the shape of an Exhibition of the most recent nursing inventions, dressings, and appliances. And we cannot doubt that, as time goes on, other means will be found and executed whereby the same field of usefulness can be more largely cultivated.

(E) provides for "watching any legislation affecting the discharge by journalists of their professional duties, and for endeavouring to obtain amendments of the law affecting journalists, their duties and interests." Here at present, as we have before remarked, there is no scope for action by Nurses. But there can be no dispute that, sooner

rather than later, and, in fact, very soon after Nursing becomes recognised by law, some provision must, for the sake of the public, be made as to the manner in which Nurses shall be supplied to the sick outside Hospitals, and as to other details affecting their employment. When that time arrives—as come it surely must—there will be forced upon the Association the necessity to adopt this section of the journalists' Charter also.

(F) declares that "the Institute shall act as a means of communication between members or others seeking professional engagements and employers desirous of employing them." A principle this which has from the beginning of its existence been adopted by the B.N.A., for it is well known that lists of vacant appointments for Nurses, and of members seeking work, are kept at the offices, and that by this means much good has been effected. We have been told, indeed, that the Hon. Secretaries of the Association are constantly being applied to by Matrons and Hospital Managers all over the country for suitable Nurses, Sisters, and Matrons, on the plea that an advertisement in our columns always produces such scores of answers that to make a choice from the multitude is most difficult. It is certainly not one of the least of the advantages to be gained from membership of the Association that appointments, and employment, can thus be heard of, or obtained, which are never advertised in the public press.

(G) announces that "personal and friendly intercourse between Members of the Institute will be promoted, and that conferences and meetings for the discussion of professional affairs and interests will be held." Once more the Association takes precedence, for it has already done all these things. Its winter *Conversazione* is an event anticipated, and looked back upon, each year with the greatest pleasure; and the annual meeting bids fair to be as interesting to provincial Members as the *Conversazione* is to metropolitan Nurses. The monthly gatherings for the reading of papers, and the meetings of the General Council have already been more successful in drawing Nurses together than could have been previously expected.

So, in one and all of these proposals of the Institute of Journalists, we see that the Nurses' Association is ahead, and has carried into practice what the Charter we are considering plans out in theory. Certainly on none of these grounds, therefore, could any reasonable being oppose a Charter being granted to the Nurses' Association. We propose in like manner next week to consider the remaining powers now granted to the Institute, and contrast them with the proposals and the proceedings of the Association.

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