

which would give them power to influence legislation on moral standards; without it they could not protect their bodies from defilement.

Miss HULME inquired what hospital Matrons were doing to instruct nurses on these subjects.

#### RESOLUTION.

The following resolution, proposed by Miss L. L. Dock, R.N., and seconded by Mrs. Hampton Robb, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting recommends to each National Association of Nurses now in membership in the International Council of Nurses that it do appoint in its own country a Standing Committee on Morality and Public Health, and that it plans its work on the following lines:—

"1. To learn how and to what extent immorality is affected by national or local laws.

"2. To recommend suitable instructive literature to nurses on this topic.

"3. To put itself in communication with national societies of moral prophylaxis.

"4. To urge more careful teaching on these lines to nurses in hospitals."

In proposing the resolution, Miss Dock told the story of a little Jewish girl who had been outraged; when she was questioned as to her assailant the child looked up with her pathetic dark eyes and said: "It was a Christian."

### The American Committee on Public Health.

The American Committee to work upon the national and international resolutions in favour of better instruction for nurses in venereal diseases is in process of formation. The resolution passed at the meeting of the American Federation in June was also adopted by the Associated Alumnae the next day, and Mrs. Alexander Colvin, of Minneapolis, has been appointed Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and will take it up actively. She has placed Miss Dock on her Committee, and it is probable that all the work to be done under this resolution will be merged into the one Committee of the Associated Alumnae. Recommendations will be sent to the Society of Training School Superintendents, asking them to amplify the instruction now given on venereal diseases. Dr. Caroline Hedger (possessing also the nurse's training, as a distinguished graduate of the Illinois Training School in Chicago), who gave a notable and impressive address on this subject at Minneapolis, has been suggested as a valuable member of the Committee to recommend suitable literature. Miss Dock has been employing part of her time in London in studying the question at the Library of the British Museum, and contemplates the preparation of a manual suitable for nurses, which will give them the main facts on these diseases, not only from the medical aspect but

from the moral, social, and legal points of view as well, and which will outline the history of "regulation" by states and the present status of "regulation," and the crusade for abolition carried on in England by Mrs. Josephine Butler and her associates.

### Progress of State Registration.

The *American Journal of Nursing*, which publishes in full the Michigan and Pennsylvania Bills for the State Registration of Nurses, says:—

In both of these States the struggle has been long, and the opposition so bitter that we are surprised that the results as shown by the Bills are so good.

In the Pennsylvania Bill many objectionable amendments were cut out by the effort of the nurses, and the Bill as a whole is much better than when we last saw a copy of it. The majority of the Board of Examiners being physicians is an unsatisfactory feature, but it is to be hoped that the Governor will be moved to appoint the kind of men who are in sympathy with the highest nursing ideals, and that in time the Bill may be amended to meet the wishes of the nurses of the State.

During the past winter eight States have been successful in securing laws that give to nursing a legal status. These are Washington, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, Michigan, Pennsylvania. Two have failed, Tennessee and Massachusetts, but when success comes to these States we predict that the standards will be high. Such contests as some of the States have had served to bind the nurses together in stronger bonds of friendship, have educated the rank and file to a clearer conception of what the movement means, and have educated the public more broadly in all matters pertaining to nursing affairs so that the time has not been lost.

It will be ten years in November since a definite plan for the State registration of nurses was first proposed. The movement has proved to be the greatest educator of the period, in which we like to feel that the *Journal* has had a leading place.

The *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, referring to the English Bill for the Registration of Nurses, says:—

"It's dogged as does it." Our English sisters are to be congratulated on the pertinacity and courage with which they renew again and again their struggle for State registration. The task is a much more difficult one than that before us.

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