

munications from our Sisters to the effect that they meet with far higher recognition if it becomes known that they are acknowledged by the State.

It is most gratifying to state the fact that already now there is a growing tendency on the part of women of the better classes to join our profession; this will further increase, as soon as the better formation of our professional condition becomes known, and many hospitals and other institutions for the care of sick people do not want any but acknowledged nurses.

Unfortunately, very little interest is taken in our professional conditions by the public in general, as by the religious development of our professional conditions and the whole formation of our hospital arrangements, all we call nursing, was outside of ordinary daily life. All that concerns our profession must seem to them like some strange world shut in by high walls. The daily Press took hardly any notice of these most important measures.

The said result for the independent nurses, or for those who just at that time had separated from their associations, or who had not yet joined ours, was that they missed the year of grace, and so, after a long professional activity, they found themselves obliged to go in for the examination, if they desired to be considered efficient in their profession.

There is, indeed, a way of escape open to the members who joined the German Nurses' Association after June 1st, 1908—namely, that each of the 26 German States has to decide independently when the examination regulations are to be enforced. Only seven did so at the same time as Prussia; in eight of them the year of grace is not yet over, the others are about to enforce the regulations, or, like Bavaria, do not at present intend to do so.

Thanks to our extension over all German States, we can do much towards moving our senior Sisters to those places where they can still be given State Registration without their passing the examination. Of all others, we demand a passing of the examination as the condition of active membership in our association.

Prussia has now had an official compendium worked out by a Government Commission, though already, in 1907, the very good "Pocket Book for Nursing," by Pfeiffer, in 2 vols. (4th edition) had been revised with the help of Sisters and Lady Superintendents, by its publisher, who for thirty years had been the Director of a Sisters' school in a mother house. The creation of a badge for all State Registered nurses has been taken into consideration, but there is great doubt as to what

kind and shape of badge shall be adopted, there being endless variety of such already; every mother house, every association except the religious ones give their Sisters such a badge, in shape of a brooch generally. The Red Cross Mother Houses have each their own, besides another of their federation. Many hospitals and private nursing homes have also one, and then there is ours, so that in these cases a third badge, which, of course, must always be worn well in view, is difficult to devise, especially as it would also have to be worn by men nurses.

Echoes of the Congress.

Speaking editorially, the *Canadian Nurse* says:—"The London meeting, so long looked forward to, has come and gone, and left us all the better and stronger for it, both those who were happy enough to be present and those who through them or through their efforts have received a share of the benefits of the Congress. It is, perhaps, too soon to sum up all the effects of its work, for these will be far-reaching and not at once apparent, but we may at least say that it has vindicated the dignity and importance of the profession, helped its working power, defined more clearly its policy, and added to its unity by perfecting its organisation and increasing the affection which the members feel for one another. It has declared for State Registration, for the Parliamentary franchise for women, for improvement in professional education, in the status of mental nursing, in the care of prisoners, and in the attention given to morality and public health. It was a great Congress, and will long be remembered."

Welcome Help.

We gratefully acknowledge a donation of £1 7s. 6d. from Miss Sanderson and Miss M. Burr, collected at a drawing-room meeting at their house towards the funds of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The registration exchequer needs replenishing, and as the nurses cannot draw upon hospital funds as can their opponents—the Central Hospital Council for London—our campaign must continue to depend upon their generosity.

Morality in Relation to Health.

Owing to the constant demand for the Papers read at the "Morality in Relation to Health" Session of the Congress, we propose to publish the Papers at once. That read by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick will appear next week, to be followed by those by Miss L. L. Dock and Miss M. Burr.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)