

dent of the Toronto General Hospital, which she has held with such distinction for the last 25 years, will be greatly felt. Canada has also a forceful Association of Superintendents.

Australasia.—The Private Hospital Act in New South Wales has passed into law, and a Nurses' Registration Bill, supported by a Petition from the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association is now before the House.

An important Conference of Delegates from the Branches of the Association was held at Sydney in July, at which many questions of great professional importance were discussed.

In New Zealand the most important event has been the formation of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association, which must give solidarity to the profession in that Dominion.

ABROAD.

While we are faced on all sides at home with the tendency to depreciate nursing standards, we see evidence abroad of a general desire for better education, and organisation.

In Germany the effect of the Nurses' Registration Act is to raise the standard of education, and systematic courses of lectures for nurses by eminent medical men have been given at the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus, a memorial to the late Empress Frederick, and her interest in the educational progress of the medical profession. A High School for Medical Mission Workers has also been opened by the King of Würtemberg, one section of which is devoted to the study of midwifery by women doctors and nurses.

In France.—The official inauguration of the School for Nurses of the *Assistance Publique* took place only on November 8th, 1908, but the School had been in working order some time previously, and the first class of pupils has now been graduated, and already their services are in demand in other parts of France. A certain number of these pupils have had the advantage of an insight into English hospital methods at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The Bordeaux Schools, inaugurated by Dr. Anna Hamilton, have now been working long enough to have a very marked influence. The good work which began at the Maison de Santé Protestante under Dr. Hamilton's supervision, has spread to many provincial hospitals, and the Tondu Hospital has now graduated 51 pupils, who are working as Matrons and Sisters in many civil and military hospitals, and are doing most valuable work for the sick and for the organisation of nursing.

A Hospital Matrons' Council—*Conseil National Français des Directrices d'Hopitaux*—has been formed through Dr. Hamilton's good offices, with Mlle. Luigi as President. An Association of the certificated nurses of the School

at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, has also been formed with Mademoiselle Soismier as President.

In Italy.—The year opened sadly with the excitement and horror of the terrible earthquake at Messina. Many of the sick and wounded were conveyed to Naples, and the nursing staff of the "Croce Azzurra," training school, under Miss Baxter and Miss Turton, had the opportunity of rendering good and much appreciated service.

A most important event in the nursing world in Italy has been the allotment of a surgical block of 70 beds at the Polyclinic Hospital in Rome to the new School of Nursing on modern lines to be inaugurated in connection with the hospital. The appointments of two highly-trained English nurses—Miss Dorothy Snell as Matron and Miss Johanna M. Clay as Sister—augur well for the future of the school.

Miss Baxter's work at the Gesu e Marie Hospital, Naples, makes steady progress, a number of additional pupils have been accepted for training, and the administration has recognised the value of the work of the nurses of the Blue Cross Association by assigning them more convenient quarters.

In Holland.—The Dutch Nurses' Association is steadily working for State Registration of Nurses in that country, and the petitions which they have presented to the Second Chamber of their House of Parliament asking for this reform, have recently been supported by one from the Roman Catholic Association, in which some important points are raised.

In Belgium.—A Federation of Belgian Lay Nursing Schools has been founded, its object being to unite these schools and to promote propaganda in their favour. It comprises the professors of the schools, medical practitioners, interested in the object above defined, and male and female nurses holding a diploma recognised by the Federation.

In Denmark.—In Denmark the Danish Council of Nurses is endeavouring to improve the educational standard of nurses as well as their social position. It maintains a fortnightly nursing journal, *Tidsskrift for Sygeplege*, and maintains and advances many useful schemes for the benefit of its members. So far it has not been the custom in Denmark to place Matrons in charge of the nursing departments of hospitals, but to appoint Sisters in charge of divisions, working under a medical head. The Danish Council of Nurses is working steadfastly to secure the appointment of Matrons, feeling convinced that this is a necessity in the thorough and systematic training of nurses.

In Finland the Nurses' Association is still working for better standards of nursing educa-

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