

plished for the improvement of nursing education, and certain systems of training evolved, yet these at present are unequal, individual, personal, and that the establishment by the State of an expert central body, or Nursing Council, is necessary to co-ordinate nursing education, and to maintain nursing standards and discipline.

In connection with the movement for registration and the opposition it had inevitably aroused, she showed the economic reasons for this, and said that though some nurses were inclined to imitate the modest violet, which keeps under its leaves, all should come forward to help in the organisation of their profession, as some 10,000 of their colleagues in the United Kingdom have already done. She concluded by congratulating the members present on having formed their League, by which means, through membership of the National and International Councils of Nurses, they could enter into professional relations with their colleagues in this and other countries.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Fenwick, on the conclusion of her address, moved by Miss M. Punched, Hon. Secretary of the League, and seconded by Miss Farries, Editor of the *League News*. The members resident in the Infirmary were in indoor uniform, looking very neat and trim, and wore their Badge, which is tastefully carried out in blue enamel, and bears the name of the League.

At the conclusion of the meeting some of those present visited the wards. If the proof of good nursing is that the patients are comfortable, then the standard of nursing at the Cleveland Street Infirmary is a high one. The fabric of the Infirmary is many years old, but the air in the wards was fresh, the fires bright, the patients evidently happy and contented, and everything, including the linen cupboards, in excellent order. The operating theatre and the manner in which it is kept reflect the highest credit on the nurses responsible.

There may be an aristocracy in nursing, to which those who hold positions in the hospital world lay claim, but the sick poor in this country, as well as the nursing profession, owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who, like Miss Leigh, have come forward during this transition period to take up the positions of Matrons in Poor Law Infirmaries, and to organise and maintain a standard of nursing which, tested by that which obtains in general hospitals, will not be found wanting.

M. B.

State Registration in Victoria.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association at Melbourne, Dr. R. H. Fetherston moved the following Resolution:—

"That the Association is in favour of Registration by the State of Nurses; and, if carried, that the Council take such steps as it may think necessary to give effect to the above."

Dr. Fetherston said that for a long time he had been of opinion that a system of State Registration would be of great advantage to trained nurses, and particularly to the public. He quoted the example of New Zealand, which he said had very advanced legislation, and had a Nurses' Registration Act on the Statute Book. He pointed out that the consideration of the question by Victorian nurses was important because a Bill was to be laid before the Victorian Parliament to register midwifery nurses and private hospitals. If this Bill passed it would take the midwifery examination out of the hands of the Association, and the Midwifery Board of Examiners would have the power to strike off the rolls trained nurses who misconducted themselves. He thought if the Association approved it would be an admirable plan to get that Bill extended to include general as well as midwifery work. He said that he had communicated with Miss McLean, formerly Matron of the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, and now Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Registrar in New Zealand, who wrote:—

"My opinion formed after three years' work in New Zealand, is that a good Registration Act for Nurses, providing for professional (both medical and surgical) demonstration, is the best thing that can be devised for improvement in their own status and in their usefulness to the public; that this legal recognition, though not so necessary where voluntary associations have accomplished so much in Australia, yet would give a stability and a certainty to the profession which can be obtained in no other way."

The resolution was seconded by Miss Madge Jones, who said that the New Zealand nurses she had met had spoken most enthusiastically of State Registration.

The President, Dr. Springthorpe, then further explained the effect of a Registration Act, and Dr. Fetherston's resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

This is very satisfactory. We have also recently had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Felix Meyer, until recently the Editor of *Una*, the official organ of the R.V.T.N.A., who is strongly in favour of a system of Registration of nurses, by the State, for Australia. Dr.

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