

State registered nurses. These two nurses' organisations have been commendably tenacious in maintaining nursing standards—all credit to them.

The Annual Conferences of the Associations of Nursing Superintendents and of Trained Nurses of India will be held at Benares on December 14th, 15th, and 16th, when many questions of professional interest will be discussed, amongst them the thorny one of what constitutes a recognised training school, as the certificate of such a school is the qualification for membership of the Trained Nurses' Association of India.

### The Nursing Masque.

We have to thank numerous friends for their kind letters of interest in the proposed Nursing Masque. It is to be made as representative as time will allow, and at the meeting of the Preliminary Committee, to be held on 2nd December, the sections will be defined and conveners appointed, every one of whom will have to work hard to be ready by February 18th next. A medical man writes that he is sorry to see no mention of the recreative side of the nursing profession included in the proposed pageant, as somewhere in the programme the lighter side of the nurse's career should be represented. He proposes "Nurses at Play." Why not? It can be presented certainly. The Guy's Hospital Nurses' League have wisely emphasised the necessity for both in and outdoor recreation for nurses, and have no less than eight sections, including cycling, tennis, croquet, and swimming clubs, also library, choral, orchestral, and debating societies. Why not also hockey, golf, skating, dancing, and drill? This medical correspondent believes that recreation is essential to the promotion of a healthy body and mind.

### International News.

Sister Agnes Karll, President of the International Council of Nurses, has completed her translation of "A History of Nursing," by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, into the German language, and the book will be on sale at the beginning of next month. We congratulate Sister Karll on the accomplishment of this important piece of work, and the German Nurses on the opportunity she has placed within their reach of studying the history of their profession in their own language. In this country the original edition is published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

### The Hospital World.

#### THE NEW INFIRMARY, WANDSWORTH.

The new Infirmary, Wandsworth, which will accommodate 600 patients, was formally opened on Saturday last by the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., LL.D., President of the Local Government Board. The opening ceremony took place in an unfurnished ward, but Mr. Burns was received by the Chairman, Canon Curtis, and all the members of the Board, at the main entrance, where he unlocked the principal door of the Infirmary. Among those present on the platform, in addition to Mr. Percival Rees (Vice-Chairman of the Board), the Mayors of Battersea and Wandsworth and many Guardians, were Sir Arthur Downes, Miss Stansfeld, and Miss Helen Todd, Local Government Board officials.

In his introductory remarks, Canon Curtis said that the Infirmary, with the furniture, had cost under £90,000, and was, he believed, the most economical building of the kind ever erected. Some people had blamed the Guardians for incurring such an expenditure, but he had been long enough in public life to know that the blame of to-day is the praise of to-morrow, and that those who conscientiously steer a straight course have the public with them eventually.

Mr. John Burns said that in opening the Infirmary that day he had dedicated a new hospital for the service of public benevolence, which the generosity of the ratepayers and the demands of medical science deemed necessary, by means of which, in the future, something could be done to make treatment preventive and curative, and not merely costly and palliative, without aim and objective.

Last Saturday he had been to Lewisham to divert a hospital which had cost £280,000 a few years ago from the treatment of infectious diseases to the most humane of purposes, the care of little children. When that hospital was fully occupied, in addition to the one at Carshalton, there would hardly be a child left in the London infirmaries.

Referring to the progress in the Poor Law of the last 70 years, Mr. Burns said that 70 years ago there were 200 nurses; to-day there were 7,000.

The size of the Poor Law problem might be estimated by the fact that in London alone there are 20,000 Poor Law infirmary beds, more than all the beds in general hospitals in England and Wales, and it was due to an increasing knowledge of the poor that the infirmaries were now as good as the general hospitals, in some instances much better.

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