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## EDITORIAL.

### PROFESSIONAL LESSONS.

From the report of the Annual Meeting of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, held in Sydney, the profession at large may learn some useful lessons, which it would be just as well to take to heart.

#### STATE REGISTRATION.

The Chairman, Dr. Sinclair Gillies, drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that Queensland, their oldest branch, had succeeded in securing State Registration by the passing of the Health Act Amendment Act. They had hoped that this year they might have succeeded in getting a Bill through Parliament, but in the present state of politics he thought that it might be advisable to leave matters as they were until a more fitting opportunity presented itself.

#### RECIPROCIITY.

The Chairman then said the question of reciprocity was an all-important one, and would require careful adjustment. Already, by the Midwives Act in Western Australia, trained general nurses from the Eastern States with a six months' midwifery certificate, were debarred from registering, or practising midwifery in the West, although English midwives, with a C.M.B. certificate and a training of probably not more than four months, could register. Their council had taken action in the matter, and had written to Western Australia, and also to Victoria, with the view of getting a joint protest of the nurses of Australia to combat the action of the Western Australian Government.

#### No "QUID PRO QUO."

It was stated that some of the members of the A.T.N. Association had been concerned in taking a stand with the members of the Medical Association, by refusing to work with unassociated doctors. At a meeting of the Council of the British Medical Association the opinion was expressed that the nurses should not identify themselves with any quarrels in which the doctors were involved. They should do their

duty under the doctors, no matter who they were. If they found that they could not work conscientiously under the supervision of any particular doctor, they should withdraw. It was felt that the doctors could not give a guarantee that they would not treat cases in which nurses other than those belonging to the A.T.N.A. were employed.

#### AFFILIATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Miss Blomfield proposed: "That it is desirable that the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association should affiliate with the International Council of Nurses." The motion was carried unanimously.

#### LESSONS.

(1) There can be no just dealing without reciprocity of standards, and thus the registered midwives of Western Australia, who have now legal status, are right to refuse to register unregistered nurses as midwives, however well trained in obstetric work they may be.

(2) The registered nurses in Queensland will be wise to take the same attitude towards their unregistered colleagues from sister States. It will compel the Legislatures of such States to pass just Registration Acts for trained nurses, and our advice is not to "wait upon opportunity"—ever a lagging jade—but to insist upon legislation.

(3) No one will dispute the wisdom of the advice that nurses should keep clear of doctors' professional disputes, at least until such time as the laws of medical etiquette extend to the nursing profession, and thus a substantial *quid pro quo* is given.

(4) We are very glad to observe that the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association has voted unanimously to apply for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, the fundamental basis of which is that the affiliated Associations shall be composed of graduate nurses only. We have long been of opinion that the National Association of Australasian nurses should be self-governing. The question will need consideration before 1915.

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