

We congratulate the Presidents and the editors of the Journals published in connection with these Leagues on the admirable way in which they are produced and edited.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The most important and far-reaching event of the year, as affecting the nursing profession, has been the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Cologne, and the gathering of some 600 nurses of 23 nationalities at the Congress and Nursing Exhibition organized by the German Nurses' Association in connection with it.

The Congress has been fully reported in this JOURNAL and in the official organs of the other affiliated National Councils, and we will therefore only briefly allude to the points of chief importance in connection with it.

1. The Resolutions passed unanimously by the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses endorsed (a) the principle of State Registration of Nurses, and called upon those Governments which had so far denied this obviously just demand to reverse their attitude of inaction; (b) declared its adherence to the principle of woman suffrage as a great moral movement making for the conquest of misery, preventable illness, and vice, and as strengthening a feeling of human brotherhood.

Resolutions passed in the sessions of the Congress dealt (a) with the overwork of nurses, (b) with the position of the Matron, and (c) with the social condition of nurses in the affiliated countries.

The paper which aroused the greatest interest of the Congress was undoubtedly that by Dr. Hecker, dealing with the Overwork of Nurses, which is an epoch-making thesis, for which the nurses of the whole world owe him a most sincere debt of gratitude. It has been translated into English for the International Council of Nurses, and is being published in pamphlet form.

The Report on Preliminary Education, drawn up by Miss J. C. van Lanschot Hubrecht, Hon. Secretary of the Committee on Nursing Education, and showing what has been done in the countries affiliated to the International Council, is a valuable contribution to the literature published by the Council.

The Council also determined to found an Educational Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, and it was universally felt that the only international memorial appropriate to so great a teacher was one which would emphasise her life's work as a teacher of the fundamental laws of nursing, and of sanitary science, of

which nursing forms a part, and which would benefit the nurses of the world.

The Council elected Sister Agnes Karll, R.N., who has done so much to further the international solidarity of the Nursing Profession, to the position of an Hon. President, it also elected Miss A. W. Goodrich, R.N., President for the ensuing triennial period, and accepted invitations from the United States of America to hold the next meeting in 1915 at San Francisco.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF NURSES.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association is now formally constituted, with Miss E. C. Barton as President. In November a deputation from the Association was received at the Local Government Board office by Mr. Francis, Secretary to the Orders Committee, on the subject of the position of the Superintendent Nurse now under consideration.

The Midland Matrons' Association, of which Miss E. M. Musson is President, continues to take an interest in current events as they affect nurses, and during the year an address has been delivered before it on the National Insurance Act and the formation of a Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society by Miss M. Mollett.

The Superintendents working under Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses have the advantage of professional association through the Northern and Southern Associations of Superintendents, at the meetings of which many subjects of professional interest are discussed.

NURSING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

The value to the State of the services of trained nurses receives ample proof in the fact that almost every Government Department finds it necessary to employ them directly or indirectly.

The Admiralty through Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, in connection with which a Reserve of Naval Nursing Sisters has been established. It is to be regretted, however, that there is still no Nursing Department at the Admiralty with a Matron-in-Chief in charge. This is the most urgent need of the Service, and nothing would tend more to raise its efficiency.

The War Office.—It is to be regretted that the conditions of service in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, providing for the admission to the Service of candidates holding a certificate of "not less than three years' training and service," have not yet been revised, and "a certificate of three years'

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