

Speaking editorially on Hospital Certificates, *Kai Tiaki* says:—

"A recent decision of the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association should emphasise the necessity of nurses in training striving to gain both the certificate of her own training school, and that conferred after the uniform examination by the State.

"In New Zealand, registration is the first necessity. Under the Registration Act, registered nurses must be given preference in all hospital appointments. For all branches of the Nurses Association it is a necessity. This may possibly lead nurses to undervalue their hospital certificates and to feel it is not of importance to gain them.

"Now it has been decided in Australia that if a nurse does not hold her hospital certificate she cannot be accepted as a member of A.T.N.A., even though she may be a registered nurse. This is quite within the rights of the Association, which is a private body, and can make rules unto itself. After all, it is the hospital in which the nurse is trained which is responsible for her. The State merely, after satisfying itself that she has the requisite knowledge to exercise her profession, admits her as a legal member of it.

"The nurse should value the certificate of her hospital in quite a different way, a more personal, intimate way. It stamps the manner of her training, whereas the State certificate shows the result of it.

"No nurse should be content to leave the Alma Mater without the seal of its approval; no nurse should be content without the legal recognition of her profession."

Even after Nursing is legally recognised in this country, we feel sure nurses will cling to their Alma Mater, just as they do now, and take its certificate, though it has not and never should have any legal weight. Moreover a hospital is only responsible for its nurses during training, and so long as they are on its paid staff. When the Nurses Registration Act is in force they will be responsible for themselves, as discipline in their ranks will be maintained by a Central Nursing Council, on which they will have direct representation. This incorporates the important principle of government by consent.

We have received an intimation from Mr. Ernest Schofield, the organizing secretary of the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition held annually in London, that he has arranged to hold "The Northern Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition" in Glasgow from February 7th to 11th, 1914.

As a business proposition an Exhibition of Nursing and Midwifery appliances, foods, disinfectants, etc., has proved to be very lucrative

and useful, which, of course, it would not be unless nurses and midwives attended it in large numbers.

It is lucrative to the organizers, and also to the journals for nurses, which issue special numbers, and cram their pages with advertisements from exhibiting firms and others, and if the members of the two professions concerned have no desire to benefit in the profits of nursing and midwifery exhibitions, there is no reason whatever why persons who do, should not do so.

That is free trade.

But when we come to the organization of Professional Conferences then we are on different ground, and we are of opinion that it is ethically wrong and dangerous to permit ourselves and our work to be exploited for gain by the lay editors of the non-professional Press, as we have been for the past two seasons in London in connection with the said Conference.

Trained nurses should emulate the Medical Profession in this particular, and keep entire control—as the British Medical Association does—of their own Professional Conferences, and very determinedly discourage their manipulation by persons who have no other interest in them than a commercial one.

We hope that if the Scottish Matrons and nurses take part in this Northern Conference they will keep the power in their own hands, and not be "run" by anonymous wirepullers for newspaper profit, as those who associate for the purpose have been in London.

Trained nurses have amply demonstrated all over the world that they are quite capable of organizing their own Conferences with immense success, and that it is their duty to do so, if such meetings are to be kept at a high ethical standard.

WEDDING BELLS.

Many nurses, and patients who owe much to her care, will combine to wish much happiness to Miss A. M. Pease, of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, London, W., on her approaching marriage to Mr. Robert Knott. Miss Pease was one of the early members of the staff of the Co-operation, her number on the Roll being 50, while the staff to-day has 500 members. We have no doubt that in her new life Miss Pease will continue her good work for the cause of women's suffrage, of which she is an ardent supporter. She has also taken much interest in the organisation of her profession, being a delegate on the National Council of Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)