

We congratulate the Presidents and the editors of the League journals on the interesting information they contain, and the admirable way in which they are produced and edited.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF NURSES.

The Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association continues to afford Matrons in this branch of work opportunity for discussing their mutual interests. A recently-formed association of Superintendent Nurses is associated with it by affiliation. The annual dinner organized by the Association is proving a very popular function.

In the Midland counties the Midland Matrons' Association continues, under the Presidency of Miss E. M. Musson, to afford a common meeting ground to the local Matrons.

The Superintendents working in connection with Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, meet in Annual Conference in their Northern and Southern Associations which serve a most useful purpose.

The Nurses' Social Union, which has done excellent work in furthering the social interests of the community, and drawing together scattered nurses, has now changed its title and become the National Union of Trained Nurses. We regret the change, as from its objects it is really a Union of Social Service, composed of trained, and semi-trained nurses and members of the public, and the adoption of the title of the National Council of Trained Nurses, with the substitution of Union for Council is decidedly unfair, and will inevitably lead to confusion between these two useful associations.

The Nurses' Missionary League gives evidence of its vitality by the increasing number of members who volunteer for missionary work abroad. Although this may seem to some a sacrifice of professional prospects, yet the invariable testimony of those who have found their vocation in this life of service is that they would exchange it for no other, that every bit of knowledge professional, social, spiritual which they may possess is requisitioned, and that the very best equipment is necessary.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

In the International Council of Nurses, the interests of the nursing profession throughout the world are centred. Through its Standing Committee on Nursing Education, useful information is being collected through the various affiliated National Councils, and scheduled for the general benefit. The Council is also taking steps to organize a Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale.

The triennial meeting of the Council to be held in San Francisco, in 1915, in connection with the great Exposition, promises to be a monumental gathering of nurses from the American continent, and from the East. Although, owing to cost and the small salaries of most nurses, only a limited number can hope to attend from this country, yet we have no doubt that those who do go will represent its best traditions, and that the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland will do all in its power to help to make it a success.

NURSING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Every year demonstrates the fact that trained nursing is indispensable both to the community and to the State, and nearly all the Government Departments would be incomplete without the services of trained nurses.

The Local Government Board controls the condition of service of thousands of nurses in Poor Law Infirmarys and Workhouse wards, though their direct employers are Boards of Guardians. The conditions of service in the smaller workhouses are notoriously unpopular, and there is the greatest difficulty in obtaining nurses to take these posts.

In January, 1911, the President of the Local Government Board appointed a Departmental Committee with respect to Poor Law Orders, and this Committee issued its first report in August last. Many of those most competent to judge are of opinion that the Draft Poor Law Institutions (Nursing) Order, since published, is detrimental to the interests of the sick in workhouse wards, and will not remove the unpopularity of the Service with trained nurses. Moreover, the Poor Law Service should be one in fact as well as in name, with a Central Nursing Department at the Local Government Board Office, under the control of a Matron-in-Chief. At present the War Office is the only Government Department which has moved with the times sufficiently to realize that such a Department, directed by its own executive officer is indispensable to efficiency.

The Local Government Board for Scotland now holds its own examination for the certification of trained sick nurses, and trained fever nurses. In the present chaotic condition of nursing this has had the effect of systematizing the standard of training in Poor Law Hospitals. But it must always be remembered that such examination and certification can never be a substitute for registration under State authority, as it confers no legal status, nor does it give the members of the nursing profession a voice in its control. Moreover, anything which

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