

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

READY FOR AFFILIATION IN 1915.

At the March meeting of the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, held in Sydney, a resolution was received from the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, forwarding a resolution of their Council, affirming the desirability of forming a combined Council of the two Associations, in order that affiliation might be obtained with the International Council of Nurses. The proposal was favourably received, but consideration of the method of forming such a Council was postponed. Meanwhile, it was suggested that a suitable title for such a body might be "The Australian Federated Associations of Nurses."

We are now informed that the organization of a Federal Council of Nurses has been decided upon, which will be eligible to affiliate with the International Council. The three representatives of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association are Miss Mann, Lady Superintendent of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne; Miss Farquharson, who has held leading positions in the Victorian nursing world; and Miss Gretta Lyons—three admirable representatives. It is hoped the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association will do likewise, and that a meeting will soon be arranged to agree on final details of organization.

We are pleased to note that the representation of all the Nurses in the various States of the Commonwealth in one Federation will soon be an accomplished fact. The Australasians appear to have the faculty of effective national organization, and for this very reason should prove an additional strong link in the chain of internationalism. If both Australia and South Africa are ready to affiliate at San Francisco next year, all the most influential groups of trained nurses in the world will stand together in international amity and power. That such a result should be possible in sixteen years is extraordinary evidence of the unity of the Profession of Nursing throughout the world, and of the power of the solidarity and purity of purpose of the professional nursing press. It is through the medium of our national organs that the message has been carried from land to land. The organization and consolidation of the International Council of Nurses is very striking evidence of the power of the Press, and proves how efficacious it is for our profession, in every

country to handle and control its own journal, if freedom of conscience in the conduct of its policy is to be maintained. A lesson the nurses in this country will no doubt apply as practically as their American colleagues at no distant date.

REGISTRATION NEWS.

Mr. H. Gilbert Barling, F.R.C.S., and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, has consented to the admirable Address which he delivered to the National Council of Trained Nurses at Birmingham, being issued in pamphlet form. It will be a very valuable addition to current registration literature, and should be widely read. The pamphlet will be issued by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which is a constituent part of the National Council.

Professor Barling has, of course, been taken to task by Lord Knutsford for venturing to express an opinion on nursing affairs, and has added to the indebtedness of the nursing profession by expressing his opinion that it is impossible for a woman with less than three years' training to obtain sufficient experience to be considered thoroughly qualified.

IN HOLLAND.

The registration controversy in Holland is almost identical with that carried on in London. The officials of the large hospitals associated in the *Bond voor Ziekenverpleging*, and with them their nurses, "until now the meekest sheep," as a correspondent quaintly words it, are ranged against State Registration, in opposition to the more enlightened rank and file, no longer under their authority. Recently "the sheep" have protested against the autocratic statement of the Board of Officers of the Bond, that in the nursing world State Registration is not wished for, and as a result of this protest a resolution has been adopted at the Annual Meeting expressing the wish to nominate a committee to study the desirability of registration. It does not appear to be the most expeditious method of proceeding, but it is at least evidence that the "meekest sheep" have begun to bleat—and that is a wholesome sign. Our correspondent wants the printed opinion of Sir Victor Horsley and other eminent medical men, who are supporting the nurses in England, as "testimonials from eminent persons in favour of State Registration are for us, who are in the midst of the fight, of very great value, especially when they are from medical men." Our medical protagonists may, therefore, realise that their help extends beyond these shores—through publicity given through this Journal, which is read all over the Continent.

IN CALIFORNIA.

The term of grace for registration without examination in California is now at an end. Henceforth all applicants must pass an examination

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