

first, as she had been in the Alfred Hospital, to give nurses theoretical as well as practical instruction. "They appreciated it intensely, and Miss Farquharson's ten years' service in these two hospitals did much to set the high standard of professional instruction demanded by Australian nurses to-day." She has been a member of the International Council of Nurses from its inception, and Miss McGahey, for many years Lady Superintendent of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, which owes to her much of its prestige, was present at the International Congress of Nurses in Buffalo, in 1901, after previously visiting Europe.

As early as 1892, as reported by Miss McGahey at the Buffalo Congress, the formation of a Nurses' Association was considered at a meeting in Sydney, "but so great was the diversity of opinion as to what constituted a 'trained nurse,' that no agreement could be arrived at." Two years later Miss Milne came over from Tasmania to confer with the Sydney Matrons upon the possibility of starting a Nurses' Association, but it was not until 1899 that the small band of undaunted leaders saw the fruition of their hopes, and the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (so called because of its membership from all colonies) was founded, one of its objects being "To establish a system of registration for trained nurses."

The Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association was founded in 1901, in Victoria, and in the following year a reciprocal agreement was entered into between the two associations, and local councils were gradually established in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. The two Associations have succeeded in securing a central examination for the pupils of the training schools throughout the continent, and a minimum of three years' training in hospitals with a daily average of over 40 occupied beds. Each hospital recognized by the associations as a training school agrees to abide by their schedule of training, and "sends in to them annual reports of the progress of each pupil or nurse in training. In this way the Council keeps in touch with its future members from the day they send in their papers to the Educational Committee; for every candidate for hospital training has to produce evidence that she has attained to a certain standard of education, and, failing such evidence, has to pass an examination to prove that she is sufficiently equipped so far as English and arithmetic are concerned."

The association registers those nurses who fulfil its requirements and pass its examination. "Nevertheless," we read, "in spite of the

unusual power and influence gained over hospitals in specific points of educational requirements . . . and despite the results gained by voluntary registration, far surpassing those achieved under voluntary auspices in any other country, the nurses and medical men of Australia came gradually to the conclusion that they must have the interference of the State in order to cope successfully with those institutions whose own standard as to education, or convictions of self-interest, clashed with the public good, as such centres could not be reached by the means available to a private society," and at a Conference in Sydney which "was attended by delegates from all the States of the Commonwealth working under the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, one important subject discussed was the necessity for State Registration, which was unanimously recognized as pressing." The only Australian State where State Registration of Nurses has as yet been enforced is Queensland, and the history of its adoption demonstrates the value of professional organization. "In 1911 its Government amended the Health Act, and nurses were taken by surprise to find that some insufficient clauses were being added providing for registration. The Queensland Council at once called a special meeting, and the wishes of this professional body were submitted to the Ministers, with the result that all their amendments, except two, were accepted. On January 1, 1912, the Act went into effect. It is considered by the nurses fairly satisfactory, and they will keep a close watch upon its administration."

Another advantage of the professional control exercised by the A.T.N.A. and the R.V.T.N.A. is that private hospitals registered by them are pledged to employ only certificated nurses on their staffs.

Visiting and hourly nursing is undertaken where the whole time of a nurse is not required, and district nursing renders similar service amongst the poor. "Bush nursing," which is really the equivalent of rural nursing, and which was inaugurated by the Countess of Dudley, aims at providing that "no settler, however remote, no little home, in however distant and lonely a part of 'the bush' it may be found, shall be isolated beyond the possibility of skilled nursing care in time of need."

Medical inspection of school children is enforced throughout Australia.

The story of Australia concludes:—"Much has been done in every way during the past twelve years by the two leading associations, but no record can give the true value of the

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