

definite, nothing final, can be achieved until the State renders the present system compulsory.

NURSING ORGANIZATION.

Lastly we come to the important question, how are we to effect progress and reform? It is certain no one person can do it. We have got to co-operate in an organized manner. The real question is, What are the lines upon which organization shall proceed, so that the profession as a whole shall be justly represented? I believe this can alone be done in a satisfactory manner by the formation of local branches of a Central Organization, and that all Councils and Committees of the Central Organization shall be composed of officially appointed delegates of the local branches. It is upon these lines that the National Association of Nurses in the United States and Canada has been arranged, and the system is proving most successful. For instance, each large training school forms a Society of its graduates—that is, its certificated nurses—who work actively for the welfare of graduates of its own school, past and present. These School Societies are affiliated to the National Association of Nurses, and select their own delegates to attend its meetings, who represent their views. By this means, ultimately, every graduate nurse in the States will have a voice in the government of her own professional affairs. In fact, the graduate nurses are professionally enfranchised—the only thoroughly just and satisfactory basis of government.

There is one fact, which the members of the Matron's Council would do well to take to heart—this splendid system of organization of American Nurses was initiated and effected by the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools—and we note with pleasure that at the late Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Association a vote of thanks was moved "of appreciation and thanks to the American Society of Superintendents of Nurses for their services of time, money, and labour so freely expended in the higher interests of trained nurses and the nursing profession." The two Societies are quite distinct, but between them there is the warmest bond of sympathy, and in consequence the sincerest admiration and loyalty on the part of the Graduates to their teachers and Superintendents. Is it not time that the Matrons' Council should bring services of time and labour to the aid of the Graduate Nurses of this country, and emulate the sterling example of their American colleagues? I think it is time.

It remains for you ladies to do me the honour of discussing the various points brought before

you, very inadequately, in the foregoing remarks.

Firstly, I would ask you to discuss the details of a Practical Standard of Nursing, touching on the curriculum of education—the fairest method of examination—and the benefits of State Registration.

And, secondly, How are trained nurses to organise, so that their needs can be voiced effectually, and brought before the Legislature?

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, on Friday, January 25th, at 4 p.m. The President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., was in the chair. There was an excellent attendance of members, and the proceedings were most interesting.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were received from—

Miss Mary Brown, Matron, Clare Hall Sanatorium, South Mimms, Middlesex.

Miss Vida Maclean, R.R.C., Matron, No. 1 New Zealand Hospital, Brockenhurst. N.Z.E.F.

Miss E. Simmons, Matron, Bendigo Hospital, Victoria, Australia.

Miss Carson Rae, Lady Superintendent, Nurses' Hostel, Dublin.

Miss F. E. P. Holmes, Matron, Private Nurses' Institution, Guildford.

Miss E. M. Eaves, late Matron, Duchess of Marlborough's Maternity Hospital, Sister Midwife, Charing Cross Hospital.

Miss M. Rimmer, late Matron, Ascot Cottage Hospital, Joint Hon. Secretary National Union of Trained Nurses.

REPORT.

Miss A. E. Hulme, the Hon. Secretary, then presented the Annual Report, which was unanimously adopted, and will be printed and circulated.

Miss S. A. Villiers presented her Financial Statement as Hon. Treasurer, showing a balance in hand of £22 os. 7d.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Miss S. A. Villiers, Miss M. Lord, and Miss A. M. Bushby were re-elected Vice-Presidents on their retirement in rotation, and Miss Dowbiggin, R.R.C., was unanimously elected to fill the remaining vacancy.

Miss A. E. Hulme (Hon. Secretary) and Miss S. A. Villiers (Hon. Treasurer) were unanimously re-elected.

LETTER FROM ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A letter from the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, conveying an invitation from

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)