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EDITORIAL.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF NURSES.

In order to do full justice to the very valuable work of the Special Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, in its desire to improve the Economic Position of Trained Nurses in this country, we publish its conclusions in full, after its most careful tabulation of the evidence placed before it, in order that our readers may study the Report for themselves.

DIETETICS AND DIETOTHERAPY IN HOSPITALS.

Recently the American Hospitals Association held its Annual Meeting at Cincinnati—a city where one of the most magnificent hospitals in the world has been recently erected, where its twenty-five buildings are located in the centre of a plot of about 65 acres of the choicest ground within the corporate limits of Cincinnati, thereby being freed from the dirt and grime so far the unavoidable condition of a thriving American city. A most beautiful Nurses' Home is attached to the hospital. What interested us specially in this convention was the fact that the American Dietetic Association held a joint meeting with the Hospitals Association—as America is far more fully alive to the all-important question of dietetics and dietotherapy in hospitals, and other institutions, than we are. And in future it is going to be the most scientifically fed people who are going to be the most healthy people, and in consequence rule the world. We know what effect alum bread and adulterated liquor and food has had on our nation's teeth of recent years, and a nation without teeth is doomed.

"This organization was formed," says *The Modern Hospital*, "for the purpose of helping the dietitian solve her hospital problems and helping the hospital solve its problems in the dietary department.

"At the first annual meeting so many dietitians in other fields were present and eagerly adding their helpful suggestions as well as their problems, that it was deemed advisable to

include all of these in the activities of the Association.

"As a result, sections have now been formed and plans started for specific work in each of the following phases of dietetics: (1) the hospital dietitians who supervise the preparation of special orders or who prepare the diets in a metabolism ward; (2) the administrative dietitian who supervises the work of the entire culinary department, in hospitals or other institutions, in commercial enterprises, school lunch-rooms, &c.; (3) the social welfare, or field dietitian, who works through the various social service agencies, through dispensaries, and in private consultation; (4) the teaching dietitian who teaches dietetics to nurses, or one who teaches the various subjects in schools intended to fit young women to become dietitians.

"The membership of about three hundred includes besides dietitians, members of the faculty of practically all leading schools offering courses in nutrition and dietetics, the majority of our nutrition experts, some medical men, and hospital superintendents.

"Commercial firms dealing in food materials or anything pertaining to food service recognize the value to them of getting in touch with dietitians."

Amongst the subjects discussed in this Section were:—

Relation of the Dietitian to the Hospital Staff, by Miss Annie W. Goodrich, Teachers' College.

Courses of Instruction for the Training of Dietitians, by Miss Katharine Fisher, Teachers' College.

Training of Pupil Dietitians, Social Service Dietetics, Hospital Cafeterias, Dietitian Service Abroad, The Dietitian in the Public Health Service, The Organization of the Dietary Department of a Military Hospital, The Dietitian in the Hospital Dispensary, Hospital Food Waste, and Diet in Disease.

Reports were also presented from several national Associations concerned with food standards, and on the standards of curricula for the training of dietitians.

We must have a popular Dietetic Association on American lines.

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