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EDITORIAL.

IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELLORS THERE IS WISDOM.

The Conference convened by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, No. 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, on April 28th, will be unquestionably the most important nurses' gathering ever yet held in this country.

We do not forget the magnificent conferences organised by the International Council of Nurses, of world-wide influence and interest, but the importance of the present Conference for British nurses lies in the fact that, for the first time, Matrons of Public Institutions, and delegates of organisations of nurses, are invited to meet the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Statutory Body set up by Parliament, and to confer with it on the Draft Syllabus of Lectures and Demonstrations, and Training in General and Special Branches of Nursing, on which the examination qualifying for admission to the Register will be based, which has been drawn up by the Council, before it is finally adopted.

The invitation has, we are aware, given great pleasure because it proves, firstly, that for the future nurses in training will have the advantage of instruction on a carefully drafted and well-balanced plan, and that the same Syllabus will be in force in all approved nurse training schools in England and Wales; therefore, when a registered nurse takes up a new appointment, the authorities who employ her will know that she has passed through the prescribed curriculum, and attained a definite standard of knowledge. This is an immense step forward, which all who are concerned in the training and supply of nurses will appreciate. Secondly, it indicates the desire of the General Nursing Council to take the Heads of the Nurse

Training Schools into their confidence, to obtain from them suggestions and criticisms before the Syllabus assumes its final form, and not only the Heads of the training schools, but representatives of the nurses' organisations, who can also offer suggestions of value for the consideration of the General Nursing Council.

If all the interests concerned can work in a spirit of co-operation for the general good, the success of the work of the Council will be assured, and the opportunity afforded for the free expression of professional opinion cannot fail to be of great advantage both to the General Nursing Council and to all who take part in the Conference.

To those who are enthusiasts on the subject of nursing education, the calling of this Conference is an occasion of hopefulness and thankfulness. For many years some of them have worked strenuously, often in the face of much difficulty and discouragement, to improve the standard of training in the institutions in which they held office, and succeeded in gaining, with justice, a high reputation for the schools of which they were the heads. But every Matron who thus worked was all the time aware that if she achieved success there was no permanence about her work, or security that it would be continued on the same lines when the reins of office passed from her hands.

Now, when a Matron resigns her position, she will know that the General Nursing Council will require standards to be maintained, and thus a Matron's work will have a permanence it never before possessed.

The work of the General Nursing Councils is being watched with interest, not only by nurses in the United Kingdom, but in the Dominions beyond the seas, the nurses of which will have a right to apply for registration on reciprocal terms.

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