

made, submitted to the general assembly, and approved.

This report included four points :—

Morality; one single State certificate; working hours; salaries.

The Union had one long and difficult task to perform: to obtain satisfaction on these points.

This, through the devotion of the directors of the movement was some years later to be achieved successfully.

It did not suffice to improve the present conditions of work; it was necessary to watch over the professional formation of its members; so the Union organised scientific lectures, advanced courses of nursing, meetings for rehearsing before examinations. The Committee bought books and established a system of exchange of foreign magazines.

#### **Fédération Nationale des Infirmières Belges.**

The Union of Brussels did not remain isolated. All through the country—at Antwerp, Tournai, Ghent, Malines—Unions are established.

It was time to create the National movement long thought of by the Union.

On February 3rd, 1922, delegates from the provincial unions met at Brussels and voted unanimously for a National Federation.

To this Federation are admitted :—

Union professionnelle des Infirmières Belges (Bruxelles).

Antwerpsche Vakvereniging van Voll. gediplomeerde Verplegeringen (Stuyvenberg, Anvers).

Vereeniging der volgediplomeerde verpleegsters (Anvers).

Union Professionnelle des Infirmières de Tournai. Vereeniging der Verpleegsters (Malines).

Beroepsvereniging van verpleegsters van Oost Vlaanderen, Gand.

The aim of the Federation is the cordial union of the different groups of Belgian nurses and its mission is to defend the professional, material and moral interests of the Belgian nurse.

We have still one duty to perform. We have to thank the foreign nursing associations for the help they have always given us, for their hearty welcome, and especially to the Danish nurses, who have always been our guide in the difficulties and doubts of the young movement, and who to-day receive us so kindly.

It is not only the gratitude of the nurses which we bring to Denmark, but that of a whole people whom the Danish nation has unwearingly helped during the terrible period of the war.

Now we ask you, nurses of all lands, to allow us to join ourselves to the groups of pioneers, who have led the way for the nurses of the countries which you represent.

Our affiliation to the International Council would be the greatest step forward that nursing has made in our country.

It would give to our efforts the sanction of a world-wide movement, and prove once more the truth of our national motto: "Union is strength."

#### **VICTORIA AND BOURNEMOUTH NURSES' LEAGUE.**

Miss Christina Forrest, one of the veteran supporters of the movement for State Registration of Nurses, and who, as Lady Superintendent of the County Hospital, York, was named in the Incorporation Clause of the Royal Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, writes editorially in the official organ of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League :—"It is difficult to write, even on a small scale, when one has been laid by for two and a half years more or less physically, and as a result has a feeling of hopeless mental fog, so you must forgive me for beginning with the confession that I do not feel I have grasped all the many details of the last six months. I am, however, quite clear on one point, and that is that I regret with all my heart that nurses—trained nurses high up in our profession—should have stabbed in the back one who has been a true friend to nurses and a consistent upholder of all that has led to State Registration of trained nurses, placing them as a legally constituted professional body. We must fight if necessary and uphold our views and our rights, but let us fight with clean hands; don't hit below the belt and don't stab in the dark or at your enemy's back. All of you know or might know to what I am alluding, and it is of no use, and indeed it would be a pity, to go further into it. Rather let us try to get nurses to register who believe that each profession should rule itself and that leaders should belong to the profession they profess to lead. If once we could get that established, much, it seems to me, would naturally fall into place which now is distorted.

"One thing seems to me very important, though perhaps less so than the last mentioned, and that is that the power of deciding who should or should not be registered or presented for registration should not be left in the hands of one person, whoever that person may be, but that it should be, as originally planned, in the hands of a Committee—the chairman a registered nurse and the members registered nurses—and that provision should be made to enable a Committee to carry on the work even if a certain number should decide to wreck a policy or injure a person by deliberate abstention from attendance. Let us think of our responsibilities when the time comes for us to act by voting, and let us carefully and thoughtfully use our power by voting for those who would, we believe, do the best they could for us, to make us a free self-governing body."

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