

Association held at Kimberley, from June 21st—24th, the Conference being officially opened by His Honour the Administrator of the Cape Province. Mrs. L. L. Bennie, President of the Association, who has been re-elected for another term of office, presided at the meetings, and the Annual Report was presented by Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., Hon. General Secretary. The President, in moving its adoption from the chair, made a comprehensive, lucid, and courageous survey of the position in regard to the State Registration of Nurses, and later in the proceedings stated it was acting on the advice of some members of Parliament that she had said what she did. More interest was being taken in the nursing profession both as regards legislation and as regards Medical Councils, than ever before, and she had been assured that if the nurses would only try to do it, many men in the House of Parliament to-day would introduce the Bill for them, and it would go through without any trouble.

Eventually a special Sub-Committee was appointed to consider and report to the Executive Committee, and later refer to Branches, regarding a Nursing Bill.

The Central Board unanimously agreed to the resolution, moved by Miss Winter, "That it be urged that a University Course for the diploma of Sister-Tutor be instituted in the Universities of South Africa."

THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

The Handbook of the Trained Nurses' Association of India for 1925 gives a most interesting account of the history of the Association. The Association of Nursing Superintendents of India was founded at Lucknow in January, 1905; the Trained Nurses' Association though nominally formed in 1908 did not possess a separate existence until January, 1910.

It is well to place on record and to do honour to the names of our Nursing Pioneers in all countries. The Handbook states that "to Miss Thorpe's splendid zeal and enthusiasm were due almost entirely the formation and organisation of both of these Associations; and it was through her efforts it was made possible to start the Nursing Journal in 1910."

It will be remembered that Miss Jane Winifred Thorpe, who at the time of her death was the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of both the Matrons' and Nurses' Associations, as well as Manager of the *Nursing Journal of India* died with tragic suddenness. On the morning of May 20th, 1910, her body was found in the moat below the wall of the Fort at Belgaum, where her bungalow was situated. It is known that she intended to get up to see a comet, and it is believed that while on the Fort wall, for the purpose of getting a better view, she must have over-balanced and fallen over.

In 1920 it was resolved, for diplomatic and other reasons, to amalgamate the two societies, and that the conjoint Society should be known as the Trained Nurses' Association of India.

Affiliation with the International Council of Nurses in Cologne in 1912, and Registration under the Societies' Registration Act XXI of 1860, have given official recognition to the Association.

On October 9th, 1925, the Secretary of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal wrote acquainting the Association that "The Government of Bengal have authorised the Governing Body of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal to maintain separate Rolls of qualified Nurses and Midwives in Bengal with a view to regulate, supervise, and restrict their practice."

The Report publishes much useful general information, and under the heading "The International Council of Nurses," publishes, in full, the paper from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on "The Spirit of Internationalism. A page of Nursing History," in which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick places on record how the International Council of Nurses came to be formed.

REGISTERED NURSES BUREAU, LTD.

The "Registered Nurses' Bureau, Limited," which has been established as an Employment Agency for Registered Nurses, licensed annually by the London County Council, the offices of which are at 55, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. 2, has recently, as our readers are aware, circularised nurses whose names are on the Register of Nurses published under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, offering them employment, as private nurses; on terms which sound attractive. A representative of this JOURNAL, therefore, called at the Office of the Bureau to make enquiries as to the scheme, and was courteously received by the Registrar, Miss E. W. Munro, S.R.N., who was trained at St. George's Hospital, London, and soon the Managing Director, Mr. Alfred Rose, also appeared.

One of the first questions asked by our representative was whether there was a Committee, and Mr. Rose replied in the affirmative, indicating the Hon. Advisory Committee of medical men whose names, with that of Sir Arbuthnot Lane as Chairman, are printed on the prospectus. Our representative thereupon explained that what she meant was not the Medical Advisory Committee, but a Committee of Management upon which Registered Nurses on the Staff of the Bureau had seats, when Mr. Rose enquired: "What could be the good of that?" and indicated the Registrar, but our representative pointed out that to be an official of the Company was a different thing from being a Member of the Committee with a voice in the management of the Bureau.

Mr. Rose volunteered the information that he is a barrister, but not now practising, that he is out to help the nurses—that he has been working at the organisation of the Bureau for the employment of private nurses for the last three years, and that in organising it he has received considerable help from Dame Sarah Swift, the College of Nursing, Ltd., and Members of the General Nursing Council. That he has resided in the United States of America and Canada, and is acquainted with the methods of organising bureaux for private nurses in those countries.

Mr. Rose informed our representative that nurses were in the unfortunate position of being domestic servants in the eyes of the law, a statement which she controverted, instancing the claim of St. Thomas' Hospital that this was their position, and that the hospital was, therefore, exempt from paying unemployment insurance on their behalf, a claim which could not be sustained and was eventually withdrawn.

Mr. Rose stated also that he had put down £1,000 in connection with the Bureau, which he did not expect to see again, and upon our representative enquiring whether it was proposed to run the Bureau on a philanthropic or a business basis we regret that she was refused information to her quite justifiable question on this point. It appeared, indeed, to be greatly resented by Mr. Rose.

It is proposed that the nurses on the Active Staff of the Bureau shall pay a registration fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual commission of £3 3s. They are required to collect their own fees. Nurses whose names are on the Supplementary Registers of Nurses are eligible for employment presumably only in connection with the specialities in which they are trained.

No provision is made for their insurance by the Bureau under the Employers' Liability Act or for Sickness Insurance under the National Insurance Act, and it is certain that the nurses would have to insure themselves against these risks, or they would not obtain employment as private nurses. This the promoters of the Bureau appear to have realised, as they enclose to nurses with their prospectus proposal forms for Nurses' Policies with an Insurance Society against personal accident and illness. It should be noted that the Annual Premium payable under this section

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)