

required all the wide sympathy of their calling. The position had to be faced that the greater part of the population was coloured and native. There was a small body of coloured nurses, but what could they do unless they had the encouragement and sympathy of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. Her Royal Highness, in conclusion, wished the Congress every success in its deliberations, and great vision in dealing with its problems.

Sir Edward Thornton, K.B.E., who represented the Minister of Health, described the number of registered trained nurses in the Union (4,138) and registered trained midwives (3,196), many of whom, however, were duplicates, as gravely insufficient even for the one and three-quarter millions of Europeans. There was a large rural native population not catered for at all; the natives were allowed to die unattended, and must often be speeded on their way by the local "witch doctors."

The Congress was welcomed by the Mayor of Johannesburg (Mr. W. H. Port), who said that it was only fitting that the first South African Congress of Nurses should meet in Johannesburg, where there are gathered a greater number of nurses than anywhere else in the Union.

Mrs. W. G. Bennie, the General President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, in thanking the Mayor for his welcome, said she agreed that it was fitting that the first Congress of nurses should be held in Johannesburg, for it was in Johannesburg that thirteen years ago the nurses had held their first meeting, at which eight delegates were present. The improvement in nursing conditions was, she considered, entirely due to the Association, and they felt proud that in thirteen years a body of women had been able to effect those improvements.

Almost all the delegates and members of the Congress were present, and the guests (over 400) were received at the entrance to the Selborne Hall by the Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, Mrs. W. G. Bennie, and Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C.

A large number of important resolutions were carried by the Congress, one of these being:—

"That this Congress of trained nurses in South Africa desires to lay before the University Councils the urgent need for the establishment of courses in Social Study on the lines of those established in universities overseas, such as Bedford College, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Universities."

"This Congress of trained nurses, holding that a sound foundation is the first essential in nursing education, deeply deplores the recent action of the Provincial Administration in the curtailment and restriction of teaching facilities in the Preliminary Training School at the General Hospital, Johannesburg. This Congress urges in the strongest possible terms the reconsideration of this step, and the restoration of this Preliminary Training School to its former status, without delay. Congress would point out that this is a matter which affects not only the interests of the General Hospital and the Province of the Transvaal, but in lowering the efficiency of nurses, re-acts to the detriment of the Public Health of the Union."

The Central Board of the Association also met from January 10th-13th, under the presidency of Mrs. W. G. Bennie, and transacted a large amount of business.

Mrs. Bennie was re-elected president, and she and Miss B. G. Alexander were elected to represent the S.A.T.N.A. at the Conference of the International Council of Nurses in Canada in 1929.

THE NEW ZEALAND TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Kai Tiaki, the Journal of the Nurses of New Zealand, announces, with gratification, that the object towards which the aims of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Asso-

ciation has been directed for the past five years, and to further which the Health Department in 1924 sent two nurses for special training, one to Bedford College and one to Toronto, has at last been attained. The Post-Graduate Course, on account of the financial responsibility and supervision having been assumed by the Department of Health, which has its headquarters in Wellington, is now to be carried out at the Wellington University in conjunction with the General Hospital.

This end has not been attained without much effort on the part of the Nurses' Association. At every Conference since 1922 the subject has been discussed, and the desirability of such a Course as has been outlined, and representations have been made by deputations and appeals by letter to the Ministry of Health, University, and the Red Cross, but always the plea of shortness of funds has caused the matter, although sympathetically received, to be shelved.

The Nurses themselves, on the initiative of the Otago Branch, started to enlist funds towards the salary of a lecturer, hoping for a Government subsidy.

With the present arrangements it will not be necessary for the money thus collected to be used for that purpose, the Health Department having decided to retain the two nurses, who are already on its staff, and pay their salaries while engaged on the Post-Graduate Course of lectures for six months.

It is suggested that the money collected by the nurses might be used to provide scholarships for suitable members who would otherwise be unable to afford the expense.

The cost of the six months' Course is greatly minimised to the students by the Health Department appointing some of its officers to give the necessary lectures, so that the students will only have to pay fees for the lectures to be given by the University professors, and for those given by a dietitian. Arrangements are being made also for board and lodging at a reasonable price.

Accommodation has been secured in the new block of the Wellington Hospital in the shape of lecture room, office, cloak-room and a portion of the new medical library. It is hoped that nurses wishing to fill the higher positions in hospitals and in public health work will appreciate the great benefits offered them.

We have followed with interest the sustained endeavour of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association for the establishment of this Post-Graduate Course, their hopes, their disappointments and their renewed effort, and congratulate them sincerely that this has now been crowned with success.

THE GRACE NEILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

After much discussion of many suggestions for a suitable memorial to Mrs. Grace Neill, it has been decided, says the same Journal, that nothing would be so appropriate as a library, to be called the Grace Neill Memorial Library, and to be established in connection with the Post-Graduate Course as soon as that had been initiated.

The provision at the Wellington Hospital of a portion of the Medical Library to be the Nurses' Section will enable the project to be started, and steps have been taken to spend the funds collected for the purpose by sending a list of professional books home, to be purchased through the High Commissioner.

These books will form the nucleus of the Library, and no doubt many will be glad to make donations of books they already possess which are suitable for such a Library. This memorial is not one which once started or established should stand still; additions may and should be made periodically to keep it up to date with new works and new editions. Besides the strictly professional, medical and nursing books, lives of those who have been distinguished

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