

THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

Miss M. E. Abram, S.R.N., President of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, is home after arduous work, on six months' leave, and her colleagues in England wish her a happy time with all their hearts.

First we must congratulate her upon the successful result *at last* of the passing by the Bengal Legislative Council, of the Nurses and Midwives' Registration Act, a triumph indeed! "The Bill," states the *Nursing Journal of India*, "has had a stormy passage lasting about 10 years in all—and even now its trials are not over—yea, they are only just beginning. Our worthy President, Miss Abram, and Miss Hutchings, of Calcutta, must surely feel proud that their work has been at last rewarded."

One decade is indeed time enough to fight for a just reform, but if our colleagues in India feel inclined to rest on their laurels—let them remember the *thirty years'* struggle for legal status for Nurses in Great Britain, and take heart of grace. Gratitude is in our opinion one of the loveliest if rarest of virtues—and it is with sincere pleasure we reprint from the *Nursing Journal of India* the following letter signed "Progressive":

A STEP FORWARD IN BENGAL.

"The Trained Nurses of Bengal must feel a deep sense of gratitude, added to their delight, in the knowledge that the Bengal Nurses' Registration Bill is passed. May I, on behalf of the trained nurses, and of the nurses in training in recognised hospitals in Bengal, convey, through the medium of the *Journal*, our sincere appreciation of the work accomplished by our representatives in this Presidency, who have devoted so much time and thought to the revision and preparation of the 'Draft Bill' which has lately been passed by the Legislative Council.

"We owe a special vote of thanks to Miss Abram, Matron, Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, who has been untiring in her efforts to emphasise the needs of the nurses, and secure the attention and support of the public in their affairs, also to Miss Hutchings, Matron, Dufferin Hospital, 1, Amherst Street, Calcutta, from whose long experience and knowledge of the conditions of, and requirements of nursing, invaluable advice and help was obtained.

"To have secured 'Registration' means that great progress has been made toward reciprocity with other countries. Much will depend on the nurses themselves, especially those in course of training, toward establishing a standard of efficiency in both practical and theoretical work. This standard demands the best that every student nurse can give to her work.

"We cannot expect to gain the advantages which registration with other countries will provide unless the highest standard of nursing is maintained. Let every student nurse realise her responsibility in the process of becoming 'Registered' with other countries, so that Bengal may be able to present to them a standard of nursing which is the highest that can be produced."

A FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP IN HAND.

The second event to be recorded is the "Flag Day" in Madras on March 17th, in aid of the joint Florence Nightingale Memorial Fund, and the Trained Nurses' Association of India—which resulted in a balance of Rs. 2,131 2 0, after all expenses were deducted. We are informed that the cost of a Florence Nightingale Scholarship has been subscribed and collected by the Trained Nurses' Association of India and that great enthusiasm is being aroused amongst nurses throughout the Indian Empire in this great educational scheme. That the Nursing Profession has taken the initiative is an augury for future success.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The one hundred and fifty-seventh meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1, on May 25th, 1934. The chairman, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Correspondence.

The chairman reported the receipt of a letter of resignation from Miss Smith, Accountant to the General Nursing Council since its inception. Miss Smith intimated her wish to leave the service of the Council in three months' time, and thanked the Council for the generous pension that was being awarded her.

Correspondence with the Middlesex Education Committee.

We have also received the following copy of correspondence between the Middlesex Education Committee and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—
Copy of letter from the Middlesex Education Committee dated 24th April, 1934.

REFERRED BY COUNCIL ON 27TH APRIL, 1934.

ABRIDGED.

DEAR MADAM,—As you are aware, the County Council is responsible for the control and management of five general hospitals which are approved by the General Nursing Council as complete training schools for nurses.

Experience has shown that the results obtained at the preliminary examination for admission to the State Register by the nurses undergoing training are not so satisfactory as my Council desire, and the evidence indicates that this is due in part to the high pressure of work at the Council's hospitals which has to be carried out by the nurses concurrently with their training, and also, it is feared, to some extent to the shortage of suitable candidates for training.

The Committee of Management of the hospitals have arrived at the conclusion that if arrangements could be made for girls, upon reaching school-leaving age (usually about 17), whereby their time could be usefully occupied until reaching the age of 19 (when they become eligible for admission as probationer nurses), this would be the most valuable method of filling in the gap between school life and hospital training, as it is the Committee's opinion that this gap is responsible for compelling many suitable girls to seek some other walk in life and thus be lost to the nursing profession. It is also felt that more time could be devoted to the study of fundamental subjects, such as chemistry, physics, anatomy, physiology, etc., upon which the practice of nursing is based, and this at a time when the pupils are of receptive age and free from the distraction which practical work in the wards entails.

The Committee responsible for the management of the hospitals, therefore, invited the Secretary of the Middlesex Education Committee, in co-operation with the County Medical Officer, to explore the position and bring forward a definite scheme of educational training for girls desirous of entering the nursing profession.

[This scheme is then given in detail. It is proposed that the minimum duration of the course shall be two years.]

It is contemplated that instruction in the enumerated subjects shall be undertaken by persons with the appropriate technical qualifications, *i.e.*, medical, nursing or scholastic.

In order that girls shall be encouraged to enter for this course, and, having entered, shall gain the maximum advantage from the course, it would appear highly desirable that they should be able to take an examination in anatomy,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)