

Australian Nursing Federation is now the recognised national association of the nurses of Australia, and takes its place with 31 other national associations each of which stands for 'the improvement of the work of nurses in the service of the sick, the promotion of the health of the nations and the honour and the interests of the nursing profession.' The honour of belonging to so fine an organisation, one with such high ideals and objectives, is sufficient reward for the struggle and the effort of the past years."

THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

The *Journal of the Western Australian Nurses*, the official organ of the Western Australian Branch of the A.T.N.A., brings the thirty-first Annual Report of that branch which contains several items of importance. The meeting, which was presided over by the President Miss Ashton, was largely attended, and in view of the fact that she is retiring this year, and in appreciation of her work during the 18 years she has held this position the branch presented a handbag for her acceptance.

After the Minutes had been read the President spoke for a few minutes on the year's work and emphasised the importance of the affiliation of the Australian Trained Nurses Association with the International Council of Nurses, which had taken place at the meeting in London in 1937.

The Annual Report presented at that meeting referred to this important event in the following paragraph.

"The outstanding event of the nursing world this year under review has been the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in London, last July. The application of the Australian Nursing Federation was accepted. Mrs. A. M. Walsh represented Western Australia, and other members of the Council present included Miss I. Dunne and Miss N. Monger. Following our acceptance, we have been invited to appoint representatives to the following sections:—History of Nursing, Nursing Education, Public Health, Private Duty Nursing, Mental Nursing and Hygiene. Nominations have been forwarded to the Australian Nursing Federation headquarters regarding this, and we await further instructions."

We welcome very warmly the entrance of the Australian Nursing Federation into the International Council of Nurses.

Another important paragraph in the Report refers to an amendment made to the Health Act this year which "provides for representation by a nurse, appointed by the A.T.N.A., to the body authorised to inquire into maternal deaths, with a doctor who watches the enquiry from the medical, and a magistrate who represents the legal aspect." The Report points out that "this nursing appointment is definite recognition of the importance of work of midwifery nurses in the prevention of maternal deaths."

At a meeting of the Western Australian Branch Council, held on July 12th, Miss R. Bottle was elected to the position of President to fill the vacancy caused by Miss Ashton's retirement.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Miss Bottle on her election to this important position, and our best wishes for a successful and happy term of office.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

The date of the tea party in connection with the Annual Conference of the Trained Nurses' Association of India has been fixed for November 7th and the opening of the Conference for the morning of November 8th.

The Conference will be held in Mysore, which will be the first time that it has been held in the capital of an Indian State. *The Nursing Journal of India* states that if the Conference is to be a success expenses will be unusually high and it is hoped therefore that members

will make greater efforts than usual to raise extra funds this year.

It is much to be regretted that both the Trained Nurses' Association of India and the Health Visitors' League feel very strongly, as stated by *The Nursing Journal of India*, for July and August, just to hand, that the scheme for the training of Tuberculosis Health Visitors in India, approved by the King George Thanksgiving Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Committee at their meeting on May 23rd, will "turn out a class of worker who will be a danger to the public."

The scheme provides:

"That candidates need not be qualified nurses or health visitors but must be at least matriculates of any University, or possess some equivalent qualification.

"That the period of training should be six months, followed by a probationary period of one month at a tuberculosis clinic under the Provincial Committee recommending the candidate, or in Delhi.

"The period of training is to be divided as under:

(a) Three months at the tuberculosis hospital mainly devoted to practical nursing of the tuberculosis patients and to include a theoretical course of at least ten lectures on tuberculosis, followed by:

(b) Three months' course at the Lady Reading Health School for theoretical lectures and practical home visiting.

"A certificate should be granted by the Fund Committee to the successful candidates on the termination of the course."

Our contemporary states that: "It is with difficulty that matriculates, who have at least taken midwifery beforehand, are able to attain to the standard of Health Visitor at the end of 1 to 1½ year's training, moreover the new workers will be running in competition with fully trained Health Visitors and will certainly call themselves by that name.

"Tuberculosis is so linked with Maternal, Infant and Child Welfare and other health problems, that unless the most highly trained workers are employed, no progress will be made and the money collected will be speedily wasted. The argument brought forward in favour of the scheme is the paucity of Nurses and Health Visitors, even for their own branches of work, without Tuberculosis.

"Surely it would be wiser to go slowly and build on a sure foundation rather than to waste money and endanger the public by releasing a host of amateur workers with 'a little knowledge,' which is always a dangerous weapon. Until sufficient properly trained workers can be produced, there may be room for some voluntary helpers, who might be of great help to the existing Health Visitors and Nurses, if ready to work under them in the right way, with the right spirit.

"Well-trained Health Visitors or Nurses who have taken special post-graduate courses are absolutely necessary for the proper home supervision of the patients and smooth running of the clinic."

Our contemporary further expresses the opinion that:

"Men would be very useful as Tuberculosis Workers; they could penetrate into market places, schools and colleges and go out to country districts, where it would not be safe to send women, and there are many fully qualified men nurses who would gladly volunteer for extra training, because they have the welfare of the community very much at heart."

It is announced in the scheme that "the first course should be started in January, 1939." We hope that as the result of the strongly expressed expert opinion of the Trained Nurses' Association of India and the Health Visitors' League, the present proposals will be reconsidered, and an adequate scheme drafted with the effective assistance of these two bodies.

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