

The New-World Nurses.

ON September 2nd, a Convention of Nurses met at Manhattan Beach Hotel, to consider the formation of an articulated Association of Graduate Nurses, which will ramify throughout the United States and Canada. This assemblage of representative Nurses was one of a succession of movements extending back over several years' time, and all directed toward this end. The first step taken was in June, 1893, when, at the time of the World's Fair in Chicago, representatives of Training Schools met in the Hall of Columbus to organise an Association of Training School Superintendents.

The Chairman of the Nursing Section of the Medical Congress, Miss Hampton (now Mrs. Robb), foresaw the rise of an association of Nurses, and at that time pointed out the important part that organised Alumnae Societies would play in its development, and advised that they be fostered and multiplied.

At the third annual meeting of the Association of Superintendents of Training Schools in Philadelphia in February, 1896, a paper on a National Organisation was read, and a committee appointed to see if the time was ripe for its initiation.

The committee numbered five, namely: Miss Merritt, Superintendent of the Brooklyn City Training School; Miss Walker, of the Pennsylvania; Miss McIsaac, of the Illinois; Miss Brown, of the Massachusetts General, and Miss Dock, who was the Secretary of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and was appointed Chairman. To these were added Miss Draper, of the Royal Victoria; Miss Snively, of the Toronto General; Miss Maxwell, of the Presbyterian (N. Y.); Miss Hutcheson, of St. Luke's (Chicago); Mrs. Robb; Miss Palmer, of the Rochester City; and Miss Nutting, of the John Hopkins. This Committee, representing the Superintendents' Society, following the instructions given them by that Society, chose twelve of the most generally representative Alumnae Associations, and a letter was written to the Secretary of each one, asking that the subject of the formation of a National Association be considered, and that a delegate be chosen from among the Alumnae members not holding Hospital positions, to meet in Convention the representatives of the Superintendents' Society, and draft a constitution upon which to organise. All the Alumnae Associations written to responded with interest, and in the affirmative. Elections were held promptly, delegates appointed, and their names sent in. A short correspondence resulted in fixing time and place. The time was set early, in order that the results of the work of the Convention may be laid before the various Alumnae, for ratification, their actions taken, and a report prepared for the next annual meeting of Superintendents in February, 1897.

The delegates appointed to represent the Alumnae Associations were as follows:—

Farrant Training School	...	Miss Mary E. Smith.
Illinois	"	Miss Phœbe W. Brown.
Massachusetts General	"	
Training School	...	Miss M. W. Stevenson.
NewHaven	"	Miss Ella Clapp.
Bellevue	"	Miss Rhodes.
	"	(Substitute—Miss Warren.)

New York Training School	Miss Lena A. Walden.
Brooklyn City	" ... Miss Laura Healy.
Orange Memorial	" ... Miss Margaret Anderson.
	(Substitute—Miss Bessie Pierson).

Philadelphia Training	
School	... Mrs. J. R. Hawley.

University of Pennsylvania	
Training School	... Miss H. Morand.

Johns Hopkins Training	
School	... Miss Helena Barnard.
	(Substitute—Miss Ross).

Garfield Training School	... Miss M. A. Mullen.
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The roll call on the first day showed fifteen members present, of whom ten were Alumnae delegates, and at later sessions the two others were present at least once.

The sessions lasted for three days. At the end of this time, a Constitution and Bye-laws having been satisfactorily drafted, the Convention adjourned, to meet in February, 1897.

Some Old-World Nurses.

THE profession of Nursing has grown very rapidly in importance and in popularity; even those conservative middle-aged doctors who, not so many years since, used to growl at the sight of the young, bright-looking girls who were invading the Hospital wards, and who openly announced that they greatly preferred the services of the old-fashioned, time-honoured "Gamp," have slowly changed their minds, and now confess, with scarcely an exception, that the old order has changed for the better.

But these changes which have taken place in the Nursing world during the last thirty or forty years are so far-reaching and radical; the Nurse of to-day is so absolutely a different creature from her immediate predecessor—different in manner, in intellect, in appearance, and, above all, in her training—that it is difficult for the younger generation to realise what even their immediate predecessors were like.

And yet, great as these changes are, they have all come about in a comparatively short time—there has been no gradual evolution; no slow development of the profession of Nursing. From those ancient times when the great general Hospitals ceased to be entirely nursed by nuns (and, in a large majority of cases, this dates from the reign of Henry VIII.) down to the time when Miss Nightingale made for herself a name in history, scarcely any improvement took place. Of the wonderful subsequent reforms it is not our object here to speak, but let us look back and try to realise a little what some of these old-world Nurses were like.

They did not rank very high in public esteem—that much is certain. Imagine anyone now a days writing as "Marian" does in "The Woman in White": "Professional Nurses, proverbially as cruel a set of women as any to be found in England." If that statement were published in a novel now what a hubbub would ensue! How the Royal British Nurses' Association—that great and powerful Society—would pass resolutions of scorn; and how all public-spirited Nurses would eschew in future the productions of the unfortunate author! And yet, as far as I know, this remark has never been criticised before, in public a

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