too, should be handed over to a National Association The disadvantages and injustices involved in sending out pupils to private duty have been a constant theme with the Superintendents. They have written, talked, and passed resolutions against the practice. Undoubtedly their influence is considerable, yet the strongest force that can be brought to bear against this system will be found in the united, expressed opposition of the graduates themselves, although this is a truth at present realised dimly, or not at all, by many nurses. It has been realised to some extent in at least one large school, whose managers were united in the intention to make pupil nursing at private duty a part of a three years' course. A superintendent, single-handed, might well have been over-ridden on this point; the graduates, well organised in their Alumnæ Association, found means of expression, and, so far, the plan has not been carried into effect. Such difficulties as these will descend as a natural inheritance to the new organisation.

The disinterested attitude of the Superintendents' Society was shown by the fact that the whole influence of its delegates went toward electing the officers of the Association from among private nurses or those not holding hospital positions. With the single exception of the president, the new officers all represent Alumnæ Associations. Some of the Alumnæ delegates favoured the nomination of superintendents for office, holding that they were more experienced and would be better able to guide the new Association, but this feeling gave way before the argument that the best way to learn how to do a thing is to do it, and that nurses at large ought from the outset to have the responsibility and management.

There was a pleasant fitness in making Mrs. Robb president, for the plan of a national organisation was long ago hers, and there was an appropriateness also in having the final meetings in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she first worked out the starting point from which it arose. Structurally, the National Association is composed of alumnæ societies, each of which enters as a unit, having representation in proportion to its size. This promotes local organisation, on which so much depends, and State organisation is also contemplated as furnishing the necessary machinery for bringing definite pressure to bear at any given point.

It is to be hoped that the national organisation will be as harmonious as the Superintendents' Society has been. It is a matter of pride with the latter body that during its four years of existence no dissonant note has been struck, no personalities have been introduced, no schism has occurred. Differences of opinion are stated in perfect good temper and with an admirable impersonality. Each year the feeling of unity and common consent on all main issues is more marked, and this has added much to the weight of influence which the Society has been able to exert in nursing matters.

Decidedly the sensation of the hour was created by Miss Merritt's paper on the Brooklyn Registry, and questions flew in volleys. Brooklyn has now set an example which New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia would do well to follow. School registries are fast becoming inadequate to the needs of the time. Those managed by private enterprise are worse, and those controlled by medical societies (let it be said with all kindness toward our superior officers) are the worst of all. They not only permit, but encourage underselling, trained and partly-trained women being registered together at varying rates, some going as low as ten or twelve dollars a week. Thus the higher standard is dragged down by the lower. The receipts from such registries are large, and go toward buying books for medical libraries, for all of which no one is to be blamed, or even criticised, save nurses themselves.

Miss Kimber's paper, "Short-Time Nursing for People of Fair Incomes," was also heard with interest. This fresh departure in nursing is being tried in several places, Miss Kimber's seeds of thought, planted some time ago in a paper in the *Trained Nurse*, being now sprouting vigorously.

Nothing marks the influence of the Superintendents' Society more than the statistics on the extension of the three years' course and uniformity of teaching. Four years ago the former was mentioned with bated breath, and the latter was thought visionary. Now the advance shown by Miss Walker's and Miss McRechnie's papers is quite striking.

Among the members present were many of the original circle, who faithfully appear every winter, several of whom are from Canada.

Prominent among these is Miss Snively, the next president. Among the absent ones, who were greatly missed, was Miss Linda Richards, most lovable of pioneer nurses, whose diploma dates back to the days of Sister Helen, at Bellevue, whose early experiences are of the most amusing and dramatic character, and whose favourite work now is building up training schools that have got into difficulties, and straightening them out; and Miss Palmer, who did excellent statistical work on Alumnæ Associations, and who was for some years the guiding spirit at Garfield Hospital, Washington, having charge not only of the training, but of the hospital as well; now holding a similar position in Rochester, New York.

Among the new members was one whose work is of such a missionary-like character as to deserve mention—Miss Ebersole—who is in charge of the Freedman's Hospital in Washington, where patients, doctors and nurses are all of the coloured race, she being the only white person on the grounds. For two years she has held this position, and has done excellent work under peculiar, and often trying circumstances.

The hospital is shabby and inconvenient, but the service is fine, comprising every branch of nursing. The beds number over two hundred, and the cases are usually acute, though here and there may be found some old "Auntie" or "Uncle" who was here "Since befo' de wah."

The coloured race is in its infancy as regards education and training, and the coloured women who enter as pupils here have in many ways the characteristics of undeveloped childhood. Yet there are among them a number having excellent intelligence and good attainments. They have, as a rule, cheerful and pleasant manners, sweet voices, and many qualities desirable in a nurse. The greatest difficulty in training them arises from their imperfect notions of duty, strict obedience, and discipline. They are often unreliable, without being conscious that they are so. They have temperamental peculiarities; are liable to alternate fits of gaiety and depression, enthusiasm and indifference. They do not take orders well from one another, and are often lacking in dignity. Yet with all these drawbacks such good results have been

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