

organized school alumnæ associations of the graduates, before anything could be done towards establishing a national association on anything like a permanent basis. It also recognised the advantage to the busy graduate-nurses of having a body already organized to relieve them of the burden and responsibility of all the various details involved in the formation of an organization. And appreciating this fact, what more natural than that these superintendents should declare themselves willing to undertake this work, looking towards the higher and better interests of the nursing profession and of the graduates, many of whom these superintendents were responsible for making trained nurses. Papers and discussions were therefore prepared on Training School Alumnæ Associations for each of the first two annual meetings. The second of these papers by Miss Palmer, read February, 1895, with the purpose of showing the available material for a National Association gave a report of the number of Alumnæ Associations in existence at that date. From a list of 164 training schools there were thirty-one organized alumnæ associations or clubs; eighteen reported no organisations, and fifty-five were not heard from. No attempt had been made, however, to classify these bodies with reference to their eligibility for membership in a national association. At the time of the meeting in Chicago there were possibly half a dozen alumnæ associations organized. The fact that thirty-one were already in existence, after the lapse of only two years, was a gratifying evidence of the mind of the nurses on the subject.

At the third annual meeting of the Superintendents' Society a very comprehensive paper was read by Miss L. Dock on "A National Association for Nurses, and its Legal Organization." After the discussion that followed it was moved, "That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to select seven others who should form the nucleus of a convention to prepare a national constitution, and that they should secure an equal number of delegates from among the oldest alumnæ societies, who should not be holding hospital positions, to unite with them in drawing up a constitution." This motion was carried, and it was also ordered that a report should be made at the next annual meeting. In accordance with this resolution, the committee submitted its first, which was also its final report, at the annual meeting held in Baltimore in February, 1897, as follows:—

Your committee reports that immediately after the last annual session of this Society, your committee met to consider methods of forming a convention for the work of organizing a National Association. Other members of this Society who were invited to join with them were Miss Nutting, Miss Draper, Miss Snively, Miss Maxwell, Miss Hutchison, Mrs. Robb, Miss Palmer. Twelve

representative Alumnæ Associations were chosen and were invited each to send one delegate to the convention. These Alumnæ Associations were the Massachusetts General, the Presbyterian (New York), Bellevue, the New York, the New Haven, the Orange Memorial, the Johns Hopkins, the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia, the Brooklyn City, the Illinois, and the Farrand. All accepted, and the first meeting of the convention took place at Manhattan Beach, on September 2nd, 1896. A constitution and bye-laws were drafted for an Association covering the United States and Canada, and a second meeting was appointed for February, 1897, in Baltimore, and at the same date as the meeting of this Society. At this second meeting it is expected that the constitution will be adopted and officers elected.

The expenses involved up to the time of the first meeting of the Convention were met by this society; after that time by the Alumnæ Associations represented.

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. DOCK,

Chairman of Committee,

ISABEL McISAAC,

ISABEL MERRITT,

M. B. BROWN,

LUCY L. WALKER.

The result of the second meeting in Baltimore we have not heard from the Secretary.

Such, in brief, is the history of the beginnings of this National Organization of Alumnæ Associations of Training Schools. With the presentation of the report above also ends the responsibility of the Superintendents' Society, as a Society, towards this organization, a responsibility so generously assumed by women already crowded with work, in the best interests of the nursing profession in general, and with absolutely no personal motives in view other than the good that may come to them individually, as members of their several alumnæ societies. As one of their own members said in the discussion, following Miss Dock's paper, "Superintendents will form a very small part of this organization, it will be an association of independent women, who hope by organization to work many reforms." Just here at this parting of the ways, as it were, of the two societies, it would seem fitting in accepting this work at their hands and before entering upon a consideration of the affairs of the National Association, that we pause and move a vote of appreciation and thanks to the American Society of Superintendents of Nurses for their services of time, money and labour so freely expended in the higher interests of trained nurses and the nursing profession.

It seems like a brief dream as to the time since that June, of 1895, but a dreaming true as to results. So splendid have these results been, thus

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