

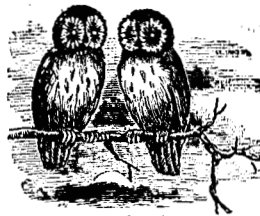
helping us to make known and carry out the various objects which have been referred to. I mean the development of publications and of literature dealing with matters which concern directly or indirectly our profession. Just on what basis these developments may be best advanced I will leave for the present, suffice it to say that this is a point which will bear much discussion and thought, and about which any ultimate plan can only be the result of a consensus of opinions.

Thus briefly have we passed in review some of the objects that we have to work for. Many nurses have asked, and more will ask, "What is there in it for me if I join the Alumnæ Association?" In answer we would say, through the Alumnæ Association of your school and the National Associations, all the possibilities that we have pointed out will be opened to you. But more remains; through them you will gain the broader and more unselfish life that comes to each woman who has ideals in her work and does not regard it merely from a commercial standpoint. The first president of Wellesley College said to the college students, "You do not go to college to earn your bread, not this only, but to make every mouthful of bread more nourishing, sweeter. It is to learn how to live, to make life, not a living. You may forget some of your Greek and Latin verbs, your geometry, history; but you need not forget your ideals, they may be yours always, or, better than this, they may be realised. For the students of to-day must be a great body marching towards the solution of problems we have not yet solved. In you we may have our meanings of the stars." But aptly may this be applied to trained nurses of to-day, into whose hands the pioneer nurses in America now place this nursing work to be carried on to a higher plane, to which the eyes of the world may look up, not down, learning to work together in a common interest, with harmony, method, and in a spirit of self-sacrifice, strengthening the intelligent loyalty and efficient service of each member for her own alumnæ association. It is very natural to look at the outset for the difficulties ahead, but I can foresee few that may not be overcome if skillfully attacked. Necessarily, there is a great amount of labour involved, and patience will be necessary before we can hope to realize any definite results. What we need is to quietly and steadily persevere. Our methods should be direct, simple and easy to understand for any one, and the spirit that underlies them should be generous and impersonal and tempered by a wise conservatism.

Finally, the interests of the individual should be one with those of the whole association. It is impossible to make too strong an appeal to your *esprit de corps*. Each member should see that the association and its work is loyally sustained in the years that are to come. Such work, though it

may be well organised, will always need this individual attention and feeling of personal responsibility from the members, if we would look towards the day when the ideal nurse will be the rule, and not the exception, her influence felt in the home, the hospital, our educational institutions, and over the broad land.

### Matrons in Council.



THE First Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland took place at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Wednesday and Thursday last. Full details of the Conference will be published in our issue next week, but we are able now to report that the success of the Conference was most encouraging, and that this annual event is likely to be most popular. At the opening meeting Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, took the chair. She was supported on the platform by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (Councillor), Miss Knight, Matron of the Nottingham General Hospital, Vice-Chairman; Miss Pell Smith, Matron of the Home Hospital, Leicester; and Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Infirmary. Amongst the Matrons present were Miss Huxley, Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin; Miss Poole, Matron of the East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn; Miss A. Brown, Matron of the Sanatorium, Little Hallam, Ilkeston; Miss G. Maredydd Harrison, Nurses' Home, Southport; Miss Kingsford, late Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital; Mrs. Andrews, Lady Superintendent of Gordon House Home Hospital; Mrs. Okell, Matron of West Ham Infirmary; Miss Butler, Matron of the Samaritan Free Hospital; Miss Annie Barling, Matron of the Infirmary, Kidderminster; Miss S. Munro, Matron, General Infirmary, Bedford; Miss Annie Plowman, late Matron, Monsall Fever Hospital; Miss J. Parsons, Matron, Guest Hospital, Dudley; Miss Hay Forbes, Matron, General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells; Miss H. Brewerton, Matron, English Hospital, Zanzibar; Miss S. Cartwright, Secretary, Registered Nurses' Society; Miss J. Curtis, and Mrs. Walter Spencer.

Letters of regret at inability to attend the Conference were also reported from Mrs. Strong, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Dewing, Salop Infirmary; Miss Dannatt, late Matron Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Sister Mary, The Infirmary, Sunderland; Miss K. V. Macintyre, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; Miss Maud Smith, late Matron Royal Infirmary, Bristol; Miss Scott, late Matron Sussex County

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