

and forget prejudice in one common aim. If we would still further widen the boundaries of our State and Provincial Associations to admit graduate nurses of small schools, the benefits which would result would be even greater. They could not, according to the constitution of the Associated Alumnae, become members of that body, but they might be admitted to the branch associations with the right of discussing, not of voting. This would bring them in touch with the work our associations are trying to do, and would give us the benefit of seeing things from their point of view as well as our own. This is a condition not unknown among clubs. The General Federation of Women's Clubs, for instance, does not admit as members sectarian or political clubs, yet the State Federations may admit such clubs to their membership, and have, in some cases, done so. Of course, such clubs are only represented in the General Federation by the delegates sent by the State Federations but they receive the benefits which accrue to them from co-operation with other women's clubs. Some of the nurses' organizations belong to the New York State Federation of Clubs, and it is a great advantage to them to meet women working along other lines. The Illinois State Medical Association admits to its meetings any doctors who care to attend, but closes the doors to them when in executive session.

Suppose we come to the conclusion that State and Provincial associations will be a benefit both to the Associated Alumnae and the Alumnae Associations which compose it, along what lines shall these branches work? I will suggest three methods.

1st—Each branch may take up such subjects as may appeal to it as most interesting or profitable; subjects, perhaps, of local interest, questions of hygiene or public health which arise in any one section of a country, or a consideration of disease or epidemic peculiar to a locality, or questions pertaining to the foundation of schools or hospitals.

2nd—A number of different subjects may be chosen for consideration through the year, each branch choosing one as its particular line of research, and devoting its attention to it. Just before the annual meeting of the Associated Alumnae each branch could send a report of its work to the general secretary who would abridge and combine these reports, making a paper to be read to the delegates assembled, so that helpful suggestions or inspiration might be gathered from a comparison of work done. This is the plan followed by the federation of Women's clubs.

3rd—One line of thought or research might be selected at the annual meeting to be considered throughout the year by all the State and Provincial associations, and, as far as possible, by the Alumnae Associations. This would prevent

dissipation of energy on a dozen different subjects, and although the ground covered would not be as wide, more actual progress might be made. Eleaine Goodale Eastman, in writing of Women's Clubs, says: "The best programmes are those that adhere to a definite line of study, and do not attempt to satisfy the demands of a large membership of mixed tastes by ranging in a single season from mediæval art to international politics." Most clubs begin by considering a number of topics during the year, but those that are wise usually end by concentrating their energy on one subject. Miss Louise Stockton, who superintends the work of many reading clubs throughout the country is constant in her advice to them to keep to one general theme, rather than to give scanty consideration to many different subjects. The Civic Federation of Chicago, an organization of thinking men and women, who work for better government irrespective of party, has learned this lesson. Formerly it took up many different lines of work, and had usually ten committees each working on its own field. This past year it has devoted all its energy to work for Primary Election Reform, and though less has been seen and heard of its work, its progress has been steady and as much has been accomplished as in any other year. If such a scheme is adopted the results of the year's work should have ample time for consideration and discussion at the meeting of the Associated Alumnae, not less than one half day being given wholly to it. Many questions arise which are of interest to all nurses, and to which we might well give our earnest thought, such problems as the employment of unemployed nurses; the distribution of nurses throughout the country, so that the smaller cities and towns might have a share in the nurses who at present overcrowd the larger cities; the problem of finding hospital positions for those who wish such work; the ever-open subject of nurses' directories, nurses' settlements, and visiting nurse associations.

It will involve some extra expense and a great deal of work to organize State and Provincial branches of our Associations, and the brunt of the work will fall on those who are already burdened—the most capable, and the most willing. It is as true of a society as it is of an individual that the work it does is a revelation of its character. Whatever we decide to do let us do it with such wisdom and foresight that no new steps shall be taken which will not prove a benefit to ourselves and to those whom we wish to reach.

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He was a very able linguist, and one day a friend said to him: "They tell me, professor, that you have mastered all of the modern tongues." "Yes," replied he, "all but two, my wife's and her mother's."

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