

any wonder you are better able to take care of the patients consigned to your charge! When I reflect about the old nursing and compare it with the new, I am often tempted to think that the most potent cause of all in bringing about the improvements has been that all portions of hospitals and every part of their work is now subjected to constant inspection. Only those who have lived long enough to remember hospitals as they were twenty-five years ago, and who also are in a situation to know how they are managed to-day can have a real understanding of the difference. Formerly little was known by the world in general of what took place within the walls of a hospital. The patients were largely cut off from communication with the outside world, and the officers and employees of the hospital were jealous of intrusion. Visiting was not encouraged, and visitors were few. Managers made their formal tours of inspection, as they do to-day, but they saw but little of the real internal workings of the institutions. Visiting physicians and surgeons knew little of what was done by the resident medical staff. Of the work of the nurses there was no real inspection, and if a physician had cause to complain of a nurse, there was no central authority for him to go to for the redress of the evil. If the physician did make a complaint, it usually fell upon deaf ears, for the official who was obliged to listen to it was burdened with other work, and was so little used to disciplining nurses that nothing was done. Now all this has been changed; the hospitals are open to the examination of the public, and even of the newspapers. From the managers down to the humblest labourer, and even the patients, every one knows that any neglect of duty is liable to be seen and punished. The publicity of everything is, I think, the main cause for the reforms that have been made. When ill doing and neglect are known and talked about, they are generally soon stopped.

Members of the Graduating Class, let me in conclusion congratulate you upon having successfully attained the end for which you have been striving for three years. In receiving your certificates you obtain entrance into the ranks of an honourable calling. You are especially to be congratulated because your Class is the first to graduate after the lengthening of the course of instruction from two to three years. This change has certainly enabled you to obtain a better education than was given to your predecessors. Those of you who have voluntarily remained here under instruction for three years, when you might have received your certificates a year ago at the end of two years' training, are to be congratulated for your wisdom in remaining the longer time, in order the more completely to fit yourselves to

fulfil your duties. You will certainly reap your reward when you take up your work, for education and knowledge are potent levers to help in the battle of life. You have received your technical education in the oldest Hospital in the United States, and the Institution is one of which we may well be proud. The age of our Hospital is a possession which cannot be taken away from it, and age combined with good work lends a peculiar dignity to an institution. Do not forget, when you go out from here, that a part of the good name of the Hospital is in your hands. If one of you should hereafter be guilty of wrong doing or neglect, it is sure to reflect, to a certain extent, upon the reputation of the Hospital. Military men despise one of their number who sullies their cloth; and the feeling is one to be admired.

You go out with the good wishes of all the officials of the Hospital; strive, therefore, hard and earnestly, to enhance its reputation. Do not be eager to climb too rapidly to success; the best success almost always comes slowly.

Remember the Pennsylvania Hospital and honour it.

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS MARIE LOUISE THOMAS has been appointed Matron of the Plymouth Borough Hospital for Infectious Diseases. Miss Thomas received her training at the New Infirmary, Birmingham, and held the position of Charge Nurse in that Institution. She subsequently acted as Sister at the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, Charge Nurse at the North-Eastern Fever Hospital, Tottenham, and Matron at the Borough Fever Hospital, Bury, and of the Fever Hospital, Luton. This last position Miss Thomas holds at present.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS E. J. JESSOP has been appointed Superintendent of Nurses at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and Eye Hospital, Stoke-upon-Trent. Miss Jessop received her training at the General Infirmary, Leeds, and for the last eight years has held the position of Matron at the Grimsby and District Hospital.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS MARGARET BEAUCHAMP NUTTALL has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Infirmary of St. John's Workhouse, Hampstead. Miss Nuttall was trained at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, and has recently held the position of Charge Nurse at the Hampstead Infirmary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)