

equal duration in the life of the world has witnessed anything commensurate with the gains realised by each of these subdivisions of medicine. Experimentation and hygiene are the key to the situation. The ready wit of the commercial factor, pharmacology, has wrought marvels in its domain, as witness the *materia medica* of to-day. See what it has produced from petroleum alone. Those of you who have headaches know of this chiefly through antipyrin, but there are many others of like character. What of the animal extracts you consume at your tables, the thyroid gland of the sheep as sweetbreads? Do you realize the frightful potency of an extract which is being obtained from this innocent article of diet? And so on, through the whole range of animal glands, forces are being extracted whose power for good and evil no one has yet fathomed. Do you realize that a department of engineering is dubbed sanitary, and that its efforts in our behalf are the result of discoveries in medicine—that food inspection springs from the same source—so that, literally, the very air we breathe, our daily portion of food, is nearly or remotely covered by laws and devices sprung from the discoveries and behests of the science of medicine?

A GREAT CHANGE.

"And what of you? Go back with me some thirty years and enter the wards of any hospital—Bellevue, for instance, whose name you and I so proudly bear—enter a surgical ward, and, viewed in the light of what we see to-day, one might readily think he stood in a pesthouse. Mind you, this applied to every surgical ward in every hospital. The picture was more striking there, because larger, because painted more roughly.

"With every operation, every injury, was pus. Pyæmia, septicæmia, known to the laity as "blood poisoning," was everywhere. All felt that there were injuries which we could not heal, operations we dare not perform; a mysterious danger which could not be averted or controlled lurked in the simplest operation, and any one who dared enter the great serous cavities was viewed with apprehension rather than approbation. Let us enter the same hospital to-day. What has become of that lurking, mysterious danger, blood poisoning? Some say Pasteur, Cohn and Lister overcame it, but that is as if you said Stevenson devised the triple-expansion steam engine; they showed the way to its destruction, but through you it was destroyed.

"The trained nurse is the smooth, well-rounded stone which crushed the brain of that Goliath. See now the cheerfulness, the safety of those self-same wards. How truly enviable the tasks of surgery there to-day, because, at last, responsi-

bility for success or failure is direct and unquestioned, and it depends wholly on the surgeon and you, his strong right arm.

"And now a word to those who made it possible for me to say what I have said to-night. All that I have said of you envelopes them. They gave the thought, the ardour and the means for your creation, and by their wise, tactful and unselfish administration made your continuance not only possible, but gave in you an example for the many schools since founded throughout this country. I cannot praise them with fulsome eulogy, I cannot discriminate their work, but I turn to them and say, as the Roman historian said of Alexander's conquest of the East, 'He took courage to despise vain apprehensions,' and, further, that when it pleaseth God, your Master, to stay your arms and call you to share His everlasting triumphs, the heavens and a grateful country will know you as the founders of the training schools in America."

Before pronouncing the benediction, Bishop Potter spoke a few words of counsel to the nurses, and added: "We thank God that you exist, we thank you for your ministries, and we bless and praise God for the wise, brave and constant women to whose initiative, patience, and courage, it is due that this great throng is here to-night."

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS ELIZABETH HALL has been appointed Nurse Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Denny, N.B. Miss Hall was trained at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, and the Whitworth Hospital, Matlock, and has held the position of Nurse at the Hammerwich Hospital, Staffordshire, the Memorial Hospital, Mirfield, and St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury.

MISS ANNIE LEACH has been appointed Matron of the Rudgwick Cottage Sanatorium. Miss Leach was trained at the Heywood Cottage Hospital, Burslem, and for the past year and a half has held the position of Sister at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield.

SISTER.

MISS LILLIAS PUMPHREY, who received her training at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, has been appointed Theatre Sister in that institution.

HOME SISTER.

MISS MARGARET F. MULVANY has been appointed Home Sister at the Mill Road Infirmary, Liverpool. Miss Mulvany was trained at the Royal Infirmary, and the Children's Infirmary, Liverpool, and has held the position of Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Wigan, where she had charge of the operating theatre.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)