

hands one of the chief purposes for which the Red Cross exists. It is quite true that the American Red Cross, which (leaving out the numerous volunteer auxiliaries formed during the war) consists only of Miss Clara Barton, a staff of officers and an Executive Committee, has never taken any steps toward organizing a regular nursing service for the army, nor could it do so without calling upon the existing body of trained nurses. There is, to be sure, in New York City, a tiny hospital conducted directly under the auspices of the Red Cross, where a handful of what they call "Red Cross Sisters" is cherished, but this is a mere plaything in size and numbers, and is out of connection with the training school system, being really a survival of the methods of thirty years ago.

For my own part, I have the greatest sympathy with the spirit of the Red Cross, and admiration for the life work of that great woman Clara Barton; and while I thoroughly believe that the nursing profession should be officially charged with the conduct of a military nursing service, with its own Superintendent, a trained nurse, at the head of all, with full authority, yet why this could not work as a branch of the National and International Red Cross, I do not see, nor why there should not be such an affiliation as would harmonize and unify, instead of multiplying, existing agencies of relief.

As finally introduced, the Army Nursing Bill was considerably amended and altered from its first shape. The "Commission" of five, three of whom were to be trained nurses, and which had been depended on to keep the important appointment of Superintendent (with, of course, all the appointing power that lay in her hands) "out of politics" as the saying is, was cut out entirely and cast away. Yet even amended, it remained fairly good, and it is much to be hoped that it may pass next year.

One cheerful feature of nursing work in the United States is that our country is so big and we have so many different kinds of people in it, that we are never in danger of being permanently repressed. If defeated in one place we "bob up serenely" in another, and if for the time being progress along one line is denied us, we go about securing it indirectly by making advances elsewhere. So, while the Army Bill is a tale of disappointment, we find a pleasanter subject in the development of the third year teaching in our training schools. With common consent the Principals of those schools which have adopted the three years' course are striving for a widening and enlarging of their pupils' education, not only

technically and along professional lines, but in ways which will make them more forceful and effective as citizens and members of society, using the word in its unrestricted sense. Or, to put it differently, the great modern movement of women—forward to a more active initiative in public and social questions of all kinds as exemplified in the Woman's Club and its advance into civics and altruistic work—is felt in the training school, hitherto so completely cut off from the great world-interests, and there is now a simultaneous development of club methods and spirit in the third year of hospital work. Parliamentary procedures are studied and practised, and discussion encouraged. The pupils themselves select special subjects which are assigned for study, and nursing history is being dug and delved into in several schools; as well as all kinds of specialities in nursing, such as District Nursing, Hospital Management, Nursing in time of War, etc.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School, with characteristic progressiveness, has been brought, by the efforts of Miss Nutting, to the most definite recognition yet made in a school curriculum, of the desirability of preparing the nurse while yet a pupil, for the broader influence which she may exert as a graduate, and the third year class, is having a set of lectures given by men and women connected with the University and with well organized charities. Then, also, any opportunity to bring lecturers in social problems before the nurses is grasped, and Miss Jane Addams has given a talk there on Hull House and Settlement Work, and Mr. Martin has promised to give later a lecture upon London Settlements and the Work of the People's Palace.

The study of nursing history is carried on by giving to different pupils some special period or famous nurse's life to work up; the story of Kaiserswerth, the early condition of English hospitals; the transition period; the lives of Florence Nightingale, Agnes Jones, and other pioneers, as well as the history of the movement from the mediæval nursing of religious orders to the modern system, and the importation and development of hospital training in our own country.

WE hope all our readers will give the most careful attention to the above letter. It is a most inspiring record of what has already been done in nursing organization in the United States by devoted and capable women, and it is a token that we shall follow where they have led. Truly we shall have much to discuss with our American cousins in the coming Congress.

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