

Nature teaches us that life and growth are inseparable. The tree or plant which ceases to *grow* begins to die. The successful nurse of to-day is one who recognizes this principle. She realizes that not only her success, but her *continued usefulness*, depend upon her capacity to keep on learning, her ability to keep up with the fast moving times.

The great use of intercourse with other minds is to stir up our own, to whet our appetite for truth, to carry our thoughts beyond their accustomed groove.

Alumnæ Associations accomplish this, and are of value as a medium through which the education of the individual graduate can best be nurtured and matured.

Earnestness, faithfulness, enthusiasm, are communicable qualities. "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

The individual who wakes up to the consciousness of having been created for progress and perfection looks with new eyes on himself and on the world in which he lives.

The education referred to consists also in warning the unruly, comforting and supporting the weak; in exhorting such in the spirit of kindness and charity, to abstain from all appearance of evil—from everything which tends to lessen the honour and dignity of the profession.

Then, too, good fellowship, sisterly kindness, and loyalty each to the other, and to our standard, are to be perseveringly inculcated.

True, the growth of such a common feeling of loyalty to our work and responsibility toward one another must necessarily require time to cultivate. Nothing good bursts forth all at once. The lightning may dart out of a black cloud, but the day sends his bright heralds before him to prepare the world for his coming.

"There are few things more beautiful than the calm, resolute progress of an earnest spirit. The triumphs of genius may be more dazzling, the chances of fortune may be more exciting, but neither are at all so interesting, or so worthy, as the achievement of a steady, faithful and fervent energy."

Looking at the history of organizations in general, we learn that only in this way does the future promise a broader outlook for our profession.

As ununited units advancement is next to impossible, while even a small organization, composed of the graduates of any given School, may, by its earnestness, devotion and enthusiasm, not only elevate the tone and fire the ambition of their own Alumnæ, but they may awaken and arouse to earnest endeavour, others now indifferent or actively opposed to progress.

In view of these considerations, does it not seem fitting that those who desire to reach a higher plane should band themselves together without delay?

Until Alumnæ Associations exist there can be no hope of a National Organization; moreover, the record of what has already been accomplished in America forbids discouragement. Opposition, difficulty, what do they mean? Defeat, even, is nothing but part of our education, nothing but the first step to something better, and failure to the heroic mind is the stepping-stone to success.

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt."

MISS LAVINIA DOCK said: In the nursing profession, we are feeling the effect of a great many demands we are unable to fill; but the very fact of these demands being made will result in development. Many questions come before the nursing profession now-a-days which can only be dealt with properly by the nurses themselves. There is a great demand at this time for women who are something more than good professional nurses. It is no longer enough for them to be merely skilled scientific nurses; they must go further, they must have social charm, enthusiasm for their work, and love for their fellow-men. There are many directions we are not yet quite ready to follow, connected with the general health and well-being of the patient and the community. The nurse's work brings her closer to others than any other work; she is able readily to become more intimate with people in all walks of life, to reach their hearts more than any other class of person. These are not questions that the training schools can readily work out; but they are now beginning to give the nurses some idea of what they might be, and are suggesting the continuation of their education along those lines. Nurses must realise that their education is only just beginning when they leave the schools. This, therefore, is one of the great objects of combining in these Alumnæ Associations. Graduate nurses ought not to be entirely dropped by their training schools; education must continue; and at the same time I believe it is much better for trained nurses to be able to avail themselves of the advice, sympathy, and encouragement of people in different professions to their own, while keeping their professional discipline pretty much in their own hands. It is better for nurses not to introduce medical men into the societies for regulating their personal discipline, and the general conduct of their life. The medical profession tends too closely to dominate nurses. In association with other women, who are carrying on work in the world, they can develop on wider and more useful lines than if they remain entirely under the control of the medical profession.

MISS ISLA STEWART said: There is no doubt that America is showing us the way in the organization of the nursing profession, not perhaps in the absolute care of the sick, but in the management of the nurses. The difference between organization in America and in this country, is our want of union. At present the Superintendents of nurses in this country have not learned to unite themselves for the common good, and so long as this is the case the present reprehensible

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