

Such a law applied to training schools would require every such school to bring its standard up to a given point, fixed by the University of the State of New York, or close its doors.

It would require every woman who wished to practise nursing: first, to obtain a diploma from a training school recognized by the University of the State of New York; second, to pass a regents' examination; third, to register her license to practise, exactly as a physician is required to do.

Until the responsibilities of the nursing profession are placed upon the nurses themselves the profession can never rank with the other professions.

This makes it of vital importance that the examining boards shall be selected from nurses in practically the same manner that medical boards are chosen from physicians, that pharmacists, dentists, and teachers are examined each by members of their own profession.

It would be death to all progress in nursing development if at this important period in its history the nursing profession were to be given less honourable recognition than that accorded to any one of the professions I have mentioned.

Such a law would not be retroactive, although after it had gone into effect every graduate would undoubtedly be required to register her diploma, and only the women whom I have described as discharged nurses would be thrown out of work in the beginning. Such a law would place nursing upon a firm professional basis. It would bring into the profession a greater number of highly cultured women, and it would protect the public and the nurses themselves against imposters and incompetent women.

The effort to pass such a law must come simultaneously from the nurses throughout the State, and they must have the support and co-operation of hospital managers and the reflective members of every community.

DISCUSSION.

BY MISS EVA ALLERTON.

The subject which Miss Palmer has presented to you is one very near the heart of every thinking woman in the nursing profession. Miss Palmer has, perhaps, taken it too much for granted that every woman here understands the prerogative of the University of the State of New York. It controls, so to speak, the output of 668 institutions of learning in the State (academies, colleges, universities, professional and technical schools), but does not include schools of nursing. It is governed and all its corporate powers are exercised by nineteen elective regents.

Regents are elected in the same manner as United States senators, except that they are elected

for life and serve without a salary, thus taking the matter out of politics. The elective officers are a chancellor and vice-chancellor, who also serve without remuneration. The secretary is the executive and financial officer.

The University of the State of New York will not allow any of the professions practised in the State unless they be graduated from some standard school, pass an examination in the branches taught in these schools, and obtain the license granted by the regents.

New York State is the great nursing centre of the country. In it there are nine local alumnae associations, representing 864 nurses. If these associations are federated into a State association, a united effort might be made to bring about the State registration of nurses. This accomplished, the status of the nursing profession would in a short time be much improved; in fact, the change would be as great as that wrought in the medical profession by the same cause. We shall not, in any other way, be able to protect ourselves and the public from impostors and incompetent women.

When we are ready we shall ask for the support and co-operation of such women as are here represented to-day.

The following resolution was then proposed and adopted:—

“Resolved, that in the judgment of this body, a State association of nurses, representative of local associations, should be organized; that such State association shall have authority, by statute, to appoint a State board of examiners for trained nurses. That license to practise as trained nurses should be issued by the University of the State under regulation of the State board of regents, upon the recommendation of the said State board of examiners.”

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS MARIANNE B. DAWSON has been appointed Nurse-Matron at the Children's Hospital, Gateshead. Miss Dawson was trained for three years and certificated by the General Infirmary, Sunderland, where she was appointed Charge Nurse in 1895.

SISTER.

MISS R. MOODY has been appointed Sister of the male wards and operation theatre at the Hartlepool Hospital. She received her training at the Huddersfield Infirmary, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Dover Hospital, and Sister at the Monsall Fever Hospital.

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