

American Nursing News.

LIGHT FROM THE WEST.

For while the tired waves vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.
And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

THE American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses held its seventh annual convention in the Academy of Medicine, New York City, on April 30th and May 1st and 2nd, with Miss Merritt, the President, in the Chair.

The sessions lasted from 10 to 2 each day, the afternoons being devoted to sight-seeing and entertainment; and in the interest shown, and numbers present, the convention was fully equal to those of former years. A departure from custom was made in the programme. No papers were read, but full reports from schools having adopted the three years' course, the eight hour system, the non-payment of pupils, or all of these innovations together, were presented and will be published in detail in the current yearly report. Fifty-five schools have established the three years' course, and many interesting extensions of the nurses' training during the third year are being developed, in the line of a more individual and original character-building. The formation of third year clubs, the uniting of the third year classes of two neighbouring hospitals into one club, the encouragement of more original work in papers and essays, and less mere book study by these club-classes, and the introduction into the curriculum of such subjects as are treated by experts in reforms, philanthropy, practical charity and social ethics, are among the suggestions that are new and stimulating in these reports. There were also fresh subjects of interest to discuss; the proposed affiliation with the National Council of Women and the formation of an International Council of Nurses; both large possibilities, and opening many doors to greater strength and usefulness. A revision of the constitution with regard to membership qualifications was decided upon, and resolutions were passed endorsing the principles set forth in the Army Nursing Bill (recently defeated in Congress by one vote only) and promising continued work for its final success.

Of special interest and importance was the subject of the new course at Teachers' College, Columbia University, designed to give nurses a specific training in hospital management, class teaching, the organization of training school work, and scientific household economy.

The report of the Committee; Dean Russell's address, and the talks given by the two pioneer students, Miss Alline and Miss Gorham, roused much enthusiasm, and subscriptions toward the salary of a trained nurse who shall in future take charge of the work of these special students, in Hospital Economics, were readily obtained.

Miss Richards referred with much feeling to the great loss sustained by the Society in the death of Miss Darche, and it was unanimously the desire of the Society that earnest thanks should be extended to the English nurses who showed at that time such great kindness.

The next meeting will be held in Buffalo, in September, 1901, by the invitation of the Buffalo Nurses' Association.

The new President is Miss Keating, of the Erie, County Hospital, Buffalo, N.Y.

The last year's report may be had from the Secretary, for ten cents. a copy, and the report for the current year may be ordered in advance before July 1st.

L. L. Dock, Secretary,
265, Henry Street, New York City.

ARMY NURSING SERVICE BILL.

(From an American Correspondent.)

THE Army Nursing Service Bill, so long and arduously worked up by American nurses and women in general, has been finally defeated, after having been amended to a mere shadow of its first self; defeated by one vote only, and that vote, one which had been promised in its support with every assurance of good faith and ardent sympathy. When or why the broken promise appeared as a thing more desirable, no one knows exactly. Of course, men all understand that things go that way in politics; and women, when they appeal to legislators, soon learn, too, that charming courtesy and ready deference do not by any means always coincide with votes in the affirmative. However, though for the present dead, the Army Nursing Service Bill will, doubtless, come to life again, and, probably, with renewed vigour. Meantime, its extinction is not a very serious matter, for, after innumerable amendments, practically nothing worth having was left in it. To have read that Bill as it was first constructed (it was really almost perfect!), and then to have seen it as it finally appeared, was to have a lesson in practical politics, provocative of wrath, yet not without its funny side, especially when one remembers the firm conviction of its friends that a Bill so manifestly good, making for order, discipline, and the merit system, must, of course, be immediately passed without opposition!

A prosaic person like your correspondent, lacking all make-up needed for a proper martyr, cannot but feel somewhat relieved that the

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