certainly there was no uniformity in curriculum and not even an attempt at a general education and ethical standard. Among the nurses there was no professional feeling, not even among the graduates of the same school; there was simply nothing organized or professional about us. Collectively we could neither qualify as a profession, a calling, or a trade. For to be a member of a profession implies more responsibility, more serious duties, a higher skill and work demanding a more thorough education than is required in many other vocations in life. But two things more are needful—organization and legislation. A calling, in its accepted sense, implies more exclusively a consecrated religious life, such as that of sisterhoods with their religious restrictions, which are more numerous and exacting than those demanded of the trained nurse; while, on the other hand, a trade is more largely concerned with manual labour. We were, therefore, a most indefinite quantity. How then, could we ask for legislation as a profession, when we did not exist as such? We had, therefore, to know and understand ourselves, in some measure, before we could possibly determine our rightful status. Modern medicine, in requiring of us the professional attributes, has taken the decision out of our hands, and has made trained nursing a profession; but how soon we shall attain to the full profession level depends upon ourselves entirely. Before all, then, it was necessary to organize, and the rapidity and thoroughness with which you went at and accomplished the first steps were truly amazing, and not the least delightful part to witness has been the splendid, broad-minded, liberal spirit with which you have met each other. This passing tribute of pride and pleasure in your achievements may be permitted to one who has watched unceasingly every step in your growth and who knows whereof she speaks. These important phases in development, though comparatively rapid, have followed each other in their natural sequence; as a result there has been no time lost in retracing steps, but a gradual broadening out has been going on as need arose. Thus organization has developed through the Society of Superintendents standing for educational advancement, to the school alumnæs, representing home as well as professional interests, to the national association representing the profession, with its larger life and affairs, and where each alumnæ has equal representation. Furthermore, after this meeting we may hope for the rapid development of local associations, where each nurse, in one state and town to-day and in another far away to-morrow, may still have her recognized place and voice in the affairs of her profession; and finally, before we meet again, we look for the formation of at least one state association, the last link in the chain of organization.

But with the completion of the chain the fulness of time brings us face to face with the vital question of registration for nurses, the foundation for which was laid just seven years ago. State registration is certainly the next and most important step towards achieving a fixed professional standard. According to the Constitution of the United States, an act authorizing registration for the whole profession and country cannot be passed by Congress at Washington, but each state must make its own laws for its own nurses. New York, with its local and state associations, will become sufficiently representative to ask for legal recognition for trained nurses within its domains. It is only fitting that this state should take the initiative. Its educational institutions are controlled by the University of the State of New York, which does not allow members of any profession to practice in the state until they show proper proofs that they have graduated from some recognized qualified school, and have also passed certain prescribed examinations in the studies taught in these schools. Only to those who satisfy these requirements is a licence granted by the regents of the university. If then, similar requirements had to be met by trained nurses, nursing would at once be established on a distinct educational plane. Again, as New York is the home of the mother of training schools in this country, it is but fitting that this state should first receive the crowning glory of the work she so bravely undertook. Nor will the other states lag far behind her in this respect if we may judge by the alacrity with which they followed her lead in establishing schools for nurses. Only by a complete system of registration will it be possible for trained nursing to attain to its full dignity as a recognized profession and obtain permanent reforms. As the matter stands at present, the woman who has spent years of hard work and study in acquiring skill and knowledge as a nurse, on undertaking private nursing, finds at once that she is classed on a level with all sorts and grades of so-called trained nurses; nor has she any redress. She is expected to work side by side with the uncertificated hospital nurse, who has been dismissed for cause before the expiration of her term as a student, with the half trained nurse from the specialty hospitals, with the nurse who has received the kind of instruction that makes her dangerous, with the adventuress, and the amateur—women masquerading as nurses, a matter of uniforms with no knowledge behind them—with the second-year hospital pupil sent

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