

can be taught theory and practice apart. Mrs. Hunter Robb, of Cleveland, in a brief discussion, said that the pupil nurses should not be permitted to spend for sweets and "spreads," the monthly allowance intended for uniforms and text-books. The money paid by the Hospital Authorities to pupil nurses to provide their uniforms and educational books, should be carefully expended for the purpose—she had seen shabby uniforms in the wards, and knew nurses who got through their training without supplying themselves with one book. The Hospital should provide amply sweets and cakes in the dietary of the Home.

#### NURSING OF THE INSANE.

Miss Laird, superintendent of nurses of the Willard State Hospital, gave a discourse on nursing of the insane.

"Insanity is defined as a prolonged departure from the normal standard of thinking, feeling and acting," said Miss Laird, and the greater part of her paper consisted of a classification of the various forms of insanity, and the best forms of treatment for these cases.

Miss C. J. Wood spoke of the Society of Asylum Workers of England, and described its work and aims in detail, and approved of the efforts being made by the Medico-Psychological Society to raise the standard of training for mental nurses.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mrs. Rogers, Superintendent of Nursing at Bridport Hospital, Conn., gave an address on "Private Nursing, Hours, Remuneration, etc.," at which she remarked:—

From the financial viewpoint the private nurse is paid better than any other. If she is an active worker, she can be busy from nine to ten months in the year. She has the advantage of being absolutely free when she is free. Unfortunately, she cannot ever hope to increase her salary; she is worth as much when she takes her first case as when she takes one ten years hence. While experience adds greatly to her worth, it does not add to her financial value. The most she can ever hope to do is to become established; to have her own little coteries of patients and physicians to whom she is absolutely indispensable.

In the larger cities in this country the remuneration for private nursing is almost uniform, 25 dollars per week being the average salary. Some nurses and some hospitals ask 30 dollars per week for nursing male patients, still others make a distinction in obstetrical work, and nearly all nurses make an extra charge for contagious cases. In the smaller cities prices range from 18 dollars to 21 dollars, but as living expenses are comparatively lower the difference is not so great as it appears at first thought. Twelve hours for duty is the established custom in large cities, and in smaller cities the hours are much longer. Trained nurses are becoming a necessity among those who a few years ago thought they could take care of their own sick. The private nurse enjoys many advantages over other wage-earners. She is protected and is almost always brought in contact with refined, intellectual

people and forced to talk of other things than nursing. This coming in contact with other minds that are absorbed in social religious, political, scientific, and philanthropic subjects stimulates our own intellects and widens our mental horizon. Of course, we sometimes have to deal with unlovely people, for the snob and the parvenu are not exempt from bodily ailments. We should take this as a much-needed discipline to reduce us to a proper state of humility, for with continuous prosperous and pleasant cases most of us are apt to grow critical and exacting.

The greatest disadvantage in the life of a nurse is the absence of home life. She is never able to make settled plans. Rooming conditions in this country, with the spasmodic boarding that nurses are obliged to indulge in, are indeed not pleasant. The club will in time fill this great need. The refined, cultured home atmosphere to be found in the club is most agreeable, and makes home-coming a distinct pleasure.

As a profession, surely outside of the home, it is the noblest work left to women, and requires a many-sided culture. To attain the truest success we must soak in the waters of unselfishness; be vitalized from within with a true love for our profession, and realize in ourselves the best of which we are capable.

#### WORK OF VISITING NURSES.

Miss Carr, head nurse of the Baltimore District Nursing Association, told of the progress of hourly nursing.

"The need for visiting or hourly nurses has been brought home to us all," she said, "by instances coming under our personal observation—self-supporting women in boarding-houses, homes where trained care and trained advice are sorely needed, but where the family resources, already strained to their utmost, do not permit of an outlay of 20 dollars to 25 dollars a week. In London some time ago, while talking to an old woman of nearly eighty years who knew Florence Nightingale and who during her whole life had been associated with many and various forms of philanthropy, and had kept careful watch over the rise of new methods, she mentioned, with much interest, the plans for visiting nursing which we were taking up at that time. She told me that it was one of the most hopeful signs in a profession at whose development she had been inclined to shake her head." Fraulein van Vollenhoven, of Holland, discussed the subject of hourly nursing, and favoured nursing in the home. She argued that if it is the mother who is ill, that the children, the husband, and the house will be better cared for if the invalid is nursed in her own home. Fraulein came over directly from Holland for the purpose of representing the medical profession of her native land. Although she speaks English brokenly she is not difficult to understand.

The opportunities and responsibilities of the graduate nurse of to-day were discussed in papers by Miss K. de Witte, of Chicago, Ill., and Miss Linda Richards, of Taunton, Mass., superintendent of nurses at Taunton Hospital for the Insane. Miss de Witte's paper was read by Miss Hay, of Iowa. Miss Richards was the first woman to be graduated from a training school in the United States, her diploma from the New England Hospital Training School bearing the date, September 1st, 1872.

Miss Earle, superintendent of the Frederick

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)