

sick benefit funds, and the latter have been well managed and successful.

In 1893 the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses was formed at the World's Fair, a congress of nurses having been assembled at the suggestion of Mrs. Fenwick, the present head of our International Council. Mrs. Robb, then Miss Hampton, was chairman of the congress, and she, with other leading spirits of the nursing world, already had plans for a national association of graduate nurses, which was later organized under the name "Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada." (Third Annual Report of the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses. Annual Reports of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae.) With the necessity of incorporating this association, the name was altered later, leaving out Canada, and the Canadian nurses were asked to organize separately.

The Canadian members remain in the Superintendents' Society, as this is not incorporated.

Since then organization has taken on fresh energy, and has advanced rapidly, so that we may consider we are but just noting our earliest stages and are developing along the lines of a vast, comprehensive, and closely related yet individually free group of associations.

State associations are now arising, New York, Virginia, and Illinois having formed their outlines. Such societies will necessarily be more liberal and inclusive in their membership qualifications than any we have yet had, and their peculiar work will be to influence the future status of nursing education by suitable legislation, restrictive on some lines and constructive on others.

In this task the magazine established in October, 1900, under the control of the National Alumnae is expected to prove a potent factor. The last step in organization was the affiliation of the National Alumnae and the Society of Superintendents under the name "American Federation of Nurses," in April, 1901. Under this form and title we have joined the National Council of Women, and this is the body which is ready to enter the International Council of Nurses. We have left this Federation free to develop as the state societies come into membership with the national, or as other groups of nurses may desire to enter it.

NURSING EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Nursing Education stands thus:—Preliminary requirements: No fixed uniformity of preliminary examination or definite requirements has been reached, further than by general opinion. While a good common education is agreed upon, we have not put upon paper what this should be, exactly. Refinement and accustomedness to nice ways of living are sought; ultimately, the personal char-

acter and capability of the pupil nurse are put ahead of technical attainments.

PERIOD OF TRAINING.

Two years was the almost universal course of our schools at first; yet our school boards tacitly assumed that the training was finished in the first year, as in the second the pupils were made head nurses, and also sent out to private cases.

As time went on the latter custom died away, so that two years' work in the hospital wards has been the rule throughout the country for the past ten years; since 1894 some seventy odd hospitals have adopted the *three years' course*; this will no doubt extend to all hospitals as the advantages are great. In the third year there is now a tendency to return to undergraduate private duty, which must be looked upon, on the whole, as an injurious tendency, which we must hope will prove temporary, as in the two years.

COURSE OF THEORETICAL STUDY.

The generally accepted course of study covers hygiene, anatomy, physiology, materia medica, principles of bacteriology, asepsis and antisepsis, and medical, surgical, gynecological, and obstetrical nursing. Lectures on massage, specialties (such as eye, ear, etc.) are included, and some attempt at teaching cooking for the sick is quite general, though not always as well worked out as might be.

While lectures are universally of excellent quality, the criticism may be made that we have too many. From the practical standpoint this is the least useful form of study for the pupil.

Teaching by demonstration, and the laboratory method, or having the pupil carefully watched in the performance of each duty, is less well developed, though this method is constantly extending.

PRACTICAL WORK.

Practical work follows the theoretical, as far as material allows. Besides the medical, surgical, gynecological, and operation room services, all schools of good grade provide obstetrical training for their pupils, either in their own wards, or in some special hospital. Such training includes examination of patient, and delivery of uncomplicated cases, only in order that the nurse may be prepared to meet emergencies. The nurse never takes up midwifery work, and in private practice or district nursing goes only to obstetric cases where a doctor is in attendance. The midwife question, so distracting in other countries, does not exist here as a complication to nurses, and it is consequently a question that we may leave to the medical profession to settle. Midwives are only in practice among the foreign population of our large cities, and the rising generation learns to call for a doctor, either man or woman.

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