

vate duty. In these days of progress we frequently hear the argument advanced that it is only a part of the new plan for university education of nurses, and so it may be in those schools where the nursing service is rendered at the same rate as to the poor in our hospitals. Let the poor and others be given the nursing care required and let no remuneration be exacted, then will become perfectly visible the plan for university education of the nurses. And lest these patients become pauperized, let them be given to understand that the obligation is wholly on the part of the hospital. Possibly a circular to that effect might be substituted for or accompany that which is now sent inquiring as to the merits of the nurse.

The idea of obligation may not suggest a happy state, and it may be wise to charge a nominal fee, but if it were no more than the actual cost to the hospital of the nurse while engaged with the patient, surely all moral and ethical requirements would be met, and the value to that training school of university education for its nurses could be determined by the amount of service thus given for which there was no visible increase in its treasury.

Other responsibilities of the hospital to its school under the same administration may be enumerated,—as, provision of home and sustenance, fulfilment of contracts, provision of necessary educational advantages, etc. In return the training school as a whole, and nurses as individuals, will give unstintedly of those qualities which furnish the best service, as, loyalty, unselfishness, and devotion to principle. They will abide by their contracts and will guard against the purely scientific work, forgetting not sympathy and womanly nursing virtues and attributes which sometimes seem almost out of fashion and can only be seen in the dim distance of the past, but will be ever present with the nurse who heeds the admonition of one well fitted to furnish it, that "the ideal nurse must maintain a strength of character upon which a sick world may lean."

Notwithstanding much has been said to the contrary, there is a growing sentiment of appreciation for training schools and their work, among hospital governors and administrators. The school is no longer thought an expensive luxury of the hospital or even a pecuniary benefit, but it is placed where it belongs, among the educational institutions of the world. Material evidence of this change of opinion of the hospital for its school is found in the provisions made for their comfort, for their culture, and for refining influences which surround them in the beautiful home that almost every hospital is ambitious to furnish its nurses.

An editor of a prominent medical journal, who is closely observant of the trend of events, says,

"It is becoming more and more obvious that the efficiency of a hospital of any sort depends in a great measure upon the services of the nursing staff. It would, we sometimes think, be possible to get on, for a time, at least, without physicians, but to be deprived of nurses would mean the abolition of the modern hospital. The external recognition of this fact lies in the ample provision now everywhere being made for the comfort and health of the nursing staffs when off duty."

Time and experience are the surest tests by which the real value of any form of relationship between school and hospital may be estimated; but all departments cannot fail to find in the united means and efforts, greater strength, greater resource, and eventually greater results,—*unity of purpose is the main prop of success.*

Congress Crumbs.

The proverbial globe-trotter, especially those of insular origin, are depicted in naughty little prints as a cross between a dervish and a diver, they revolve in a circle, or "rush around" garbed in most unsuitable garments, burdened with an extraordinary amount of impedimenta, from kodaks to "goggles," and with no knowledge of any language but their own. Nothing daunted, they straightway return to their native land, and write a book, which, happily for the world in general, nobody reads, otherwise litigation, requiring the unceasing consideration of an International Court of Appeal, could alone pronounce judgment upon the libelous statements and misrepresentations so cheerily hurled forth, and save an irate world from weltering in bloodshed.

For some unaccountable reason, not yet clearly demonstrated, it is an accepted fact that the Hospital and Nursing Worlds are as peculiarly sensitive to criticism as tinder to a spark, one word of censure—up flare all the powers that be, and all is aflame, and the daring reformer is quite sure to burn his fingers in attempting to save that most prominent feature of his face, which he is presumed to have "poked" into matters with which he has no concern! For these and other weighty reasons I started forth upon my recent visit to the States, in a duly chastened spirit,—joking apart, I went to learn, and although my notes are contained in a penny book, each page records facts which appear to me to be of value to those who are earnestly seeking for light on questions relating to the education and status of trained nurses, and in consequence, on the best methods of caring for the sick.

Under the heading of "Hospital Administration," I dotted down the following points:—

- (a) The British and American systems, where

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)