

daily making such increased demands upon the intelligence and vitality of trained nurses, that with the best the training schools have to give them they cannot go the pace!

To enumerate our most pressing needs, we require preliminary education before entering the hospital wards; we need post-graduate teaching to keep in the running; we need special instruction as teachers to fit us for the responsible positions of Sisters and Superintendents; we need a State constituted Board to examine, and maintain discipline in our ranks, and we must have legal status to protect our professional rights and to insure to us ample professional autonomy.

We stand now at the Rubicon; and to cross it we need a gilded galley. We must either go forward or go back; beyond, we see plainly the flowery promised land, before us lies the organized and scientific profession of our dreams, in which every duly qualified nurse is registered as a skilled nursing practitioner. Behind us is that dreary downhill path, descending to a disorganized vocation of obsolete methods, in the ranks of which all kinds and conditions of workers—good, bad, and indifferent—struggle and compete.

Justice, and self-respect, demand that we shall go forward, and it is greatly to the honour of nurses that the cost of professional organization, and progressive educational methods, have been financed by some of their members inspired by a high sense of professional duty.

Here, in the United States, I have only to allude to the splendid work accomplished by the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools. Having associated themselves together to effect professional reform, they brought into existence the Alumnae Associations of graduate nurses, which are grouped into a National Society, known as the Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States. Together the Superintendents' and Nurses' Societies form the Federation of American Nurses, a body which represents the profession in the National Council of Women, and which will, at an early date, also affiliate with the International Council of Nurses, which has called together this great Congress.

Again, when it was realised that American Nurses must have a voice in the press, those same women came forward, and undertook the entire financial responsibility of producing the *American Journal of Nursing*, to which they have also given generous unpaid services.

Through the influence of the Society of Superintendents a post graduate educational course for nurses desiring to qualify for the higher professional posts, has been organized at Teachers' College, Columbia University, and members of

this Society have ungrudgingly given time and labour to make the course a success. We realise, therefore, that nurses have not been unmindful of their professional obligations.

But educational advantages for nurses mean a direct gain to the public, and I think you will agree with me that it is not just that the whole financial burden of the further advance of nursing should be entirely borne by nurses themselves. In other and richer professions the public take their share in financial support. Witness the magnificent universities, the endowed professorial chairs, the medical colleges, public libraries, and numerous organizations which afford opportunities of study to different sections of workers, resulting in the ultimate benefit of the community at large, but owing their existence to the munificence of a comparatively few public spirited persons.

I claim that the time has come when nurses need their educational centres, their endowed colleges, their Chairs of Nursing, their university degrees, and State Registration, and the present seems the psychological moment to come to the public, not as strangers, but as professional workers, known and trusted through the length and breadth of the land, and to urge that, as nurses pour out on its behalf a skill and devotion for which gold is no real recompense, the public shall now prove its appreciation and interest in the noble work of nursing by giving something of its wealth, to place nursing education, and the status of the trained nurse, on a strong financial basis.

Is it too much to hope that the wealthy will come forward and found Colleges of Nursing; Colleges in which the teaching power of the profession would be focussed and centred, which would put the apex on our training course, and by improving the standard of nursing the sick confer a real and lasting benefit on humanity at large?

To pass from the consideration of the theoretical and technical curriculum of nursing education. A nurse cannot live by learning alone. We must consider also her Fantasy and Heart. The heart must be cultivated with as much assiduity as the understanding. True excellence of character is usually acquired by self-cultivation, by patient and unwearied endeavour, and it is founded on the conviction that intellectual attainments are those which can alone exalt the mind, that pure and virtuous feelings are those which can alone adorn it. To this end we would have nurses come into touch with all that is purest, wisest, and most potent for good in this beautiful world, to do which they must take their part in the civil and

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