

question is to be found in some State regulation of trained nurses. This regulation should involve three things: first, a minimum period of service as student nurses; second, a minimum degree of qualification on the part of the hospital that attempts to organise a training-school, and the rigid exclusion of all special hospitals from the privilege of having a training-school; third, a general examination of all candidates for diplomas before a State Board. The question is one which needs deep consideration. We hope it will be agitated before the next session of the Legislature."

The International Congress of Nurses.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1901.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE GRADUATE NURSE.

DISCUSSION.

THE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is one of the nurses Miss De Witt speaks about; "once a nurse always a nurse," and she has kept up her interest in the nurses, and will now speak to us.

Mrs. FENWICK: I think it was Mrs. Robb who said "once a nurse, always a nurse," and both she and I have proved that we feel the principle of that very strongly. It is not given to every woman who leaves her school and actual practice to do public work. It takes both time and money, and women who elect to marry have many other duties, especially those who are mothers of families—it is not always possible for them to take an active part in nursing affairs, although none need be too busy to have a heartfelt interest in professional matters.

After listening to Miss Richards' most excellent Paper, it seems almost incredible that since my first visit to the United States in 1892, when I had the pleasure of visiting the Johns Hopkins Hospital and meeting Mrs. Robb, then Miss Hampton, and learnt that nurses were almost unorganised, that such wonderful changes can have taken place in America. To-day Miss Richards has shown us what wonderful progress has been made in the organisation of nurses. It is indeed a most hopeful and encouraging report that has been placed before us, but of course all this could not have been accomplished if a few of the old war horses had not thrown themselves into the fray, and, commanding the respect of the nursing legions, led them to victory. It appears to me that to-day you American nurses are so advanced in organisation that every graduate can take her part in the government of her profession. In Great Britain we are going slowly along the same lines, but it takes us longer to organise because we have more prejudices to uproot and overthrow.

I have no doubt that international communication will be immensely helpful to European nurses, and I am sanguine that in the near future international

organisation amongst nurses will take place, and thus what of good is accomplished in one country will benefit nurses all over the world.

As a nurse who has taken up professional journalism—not from any superabundance of literary talent or personal preference for the work, but as a means to an end—to make the nurses of my country articulate, and give them a voice in the press—I may perhaps be permitted to say a few words of congratulation to those amongst you who have organised and instituted the *American Journal of Nursing*, a publication which is bound to do an immense amount of good for the nursing profession in all the English speaking countries in the world. I hope that after this Congress its circulation will greatly increase in Great Britain and our colonies, and that we shall thus reap the benefit of the work of your able editor, Miss Sophia Palmer.

I speak very feelingly upon this subject of professional journalism, because I know the arduous and unceasing labour of interesting people in class journals with a policy. It takes great courage to edit such a journal—so much patience to wait the necessary time to see it a success. The *American Journal of Nursing*, and those who are working for it, have my warmest sympathy and admiration.

MISS EARLY: After hearing so much from so many ladies, I feel there is very little left for me to say. I would like to advocate the three years' training. I did not have it myself for the simple reason that my school was small. I had two years' training and seven months' afterwards. I graduated in the class of '09. I had been in the hospital seven months as Matron, and I feel the need of three years' training.

We try to get girls who are well up in their studies, who are graduates from high schools. I think that there is too much crowded into the two years' course. We are given a massage course without lectures, and it takes up more time than we really have to give it. After serving from half-past six in the morning until half-past six at night we are so very tired to go and take out our lectures. I think there is too much crowded into the two years' course, and we cannot get it in the two years' time. If was not for the nursing journals we would be behind in a great many things. I would say that the *American Journal of Nursing* is fine, also the *Trained Nurse* is fine, and I read them carefully. I have been greatly benefited by this Congress to-day. My mind has been broadened, and I am very confident that I am better able to go out and be more of what a trained nurse of to-day should be. This Congress has impressed me greatly.

The President introduced Miss Van Vollenhogen of Holland, who made a charming little speech in broken English touching on Nursing in Holland, which was received with warm sympathy and applause by the audience. The President then called on Miss Wood.

HOURLY NURSING.

MISS C. J. WOOD (London).—I am very much interested in the subject of hourly nursing, or daily nursing as we call it in England. In 1890 I interviewed a large number of our medical men to find out from them if there was any opening for these nurses who by making several visits would be able to meet the difficulty of providing trained nurses for the poorer middle classes. They said they thought there was an opening and assisted by nurses in the Hostel I tried it

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