

## The American Nursing World.

In acknowledgment of a letter addressed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—as President of the International Council of Nurses—to the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, Mrs. Gretter, the President, has sent the following reply:—

Detroit, Michigan,  
August 28th, 1902.

MRS. ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
President International Council of Nurses,  
London.

My dear Madam,—Your very interesting communication to the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses was duly received, and I shall have great pleasure in presenting it to the members when they convene here in September.

Personally I feel privileged to state that I am in sympathy with the movement in favour of State Registration of Trained Nurses, and I appreciate your efforts to advance the cause of the nursing profession along that line in such a definite manner. The evolutionary instinct is becoming very active among the graduate nurses, and one cannot help feeling optimistic about the future.

I wish it were possible to have you attend our meeting as an honoured guest. Your presence and your voice would act as an inspiration to us, as they did last year at the International Congress. It was a disappointment to me that I did not have an opportunity to meet you and the other foreign delegates who contributed so much to the success of the meetings.

We all enjoy the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING very much, and congratulate you upon its well-deserved success.

Believe me to be

Yours very sincerely,

LYSTRA E. GRETTER

(Mrs. L. E. Gretter),

Principal Farrand Training School,  
President American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools.

Harper Hospital.

Miss Isabel McIsaac, Superintendent of Nurses at the Illinois Training School for Nurses, Chicago, has been granted five months' leave of absence, and will pay a visit to Europe. Miss McIsaac is well known as a past President of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and as President of the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo last year. She is also an Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and a Councillor of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Grant, who has been in charge of the Presbyterian Hospital in connection with the Illinois Training School, has resigned, and will be succeeded by Miss Euphemia McIsaac. The managers of the school have presented Miss Grant with a diamond brooch as a tangible expression of their appreciation of her faithful services for the past thirteen years.

## The State Registration of Trained Nurses.

In an able article upholding the objects of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the *Sanitary Record and Journal* says:—“The members of the public are usually no fit judges of the value of a nurse's certificate, but they have a very deep interest in the reality and efficiency of her qualifications. Responsible nurses are also entitled to be protected against women of insufficient training; the case is precisely analogous to that of the medical profession itself.” Our contemporary affirms, with Miss Louisa Stevenson, the President of the above Society, whose recent letter to the Press it characterises as “well worthy of thoughtful attention” that the only method by which this object can be attained is to organise nursing and confer upon it the legal status of an honoured profession by the appointment of a central authority, corresponding to the General Medical Council, whose duty it would be to define a minimum curriculum of training for nurses, to be tested by examination, and to enforce their reasonable discipline and control.

After stating that in New Zealand and Cape Colony State Registration of Nurses is an accomplished fact, that it was unanimously advocated at the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo, and that it is under consideration in many of the United States of America, our contemporary continues:—“So strong are the arguments in favour of a system of registration—and there are none that we can conceive opposed to it—that it may be said with confidence that it is bound to come. Therefore the sooner the better. It must be borne in mind that the immense advances made by medical and surgical science during recent years call for a correspondingly higher degree of proficiency in those who follow nursing as a profession. They are expected in their own sphere to keep themselves abreast of these advances in knowledge, so that patients may not lose any of the benefits which modern science affords them through want of technical knowledge and training on the part of nurses. The effect on the nursing profession itself of prescribing a minimum standard of attainment and experience will be at once to raise its status, and on the part of the public the result will be to impart an increased sense of security and confidence. We shall, therefore, enrol ourselves as ardent supporters of the Society for State Registration of Nurses.”

The public certainly are entitled to some security that the nurses whom they employ in critical illness have received the minimum amount of training held necessary by those best competent to judge. At present they are without this security.

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