

The American Nursing World.

The ninth annual meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses was held at Detroit, United States, on September 9th, 10th, and 11th, and was attended by representatives of many of the leading training-schools.

Mrs. Gretter, the able President, spoke as follows:—

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

It is a great pleasure to me to add my cordial greetings to those that have just been given, and to extend to you all, members and friends, another heartfelt welcome.

Detroit is honoured in having been selected for the meeting of this ninth annual convention of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and I appreciate the additional honour conferred upon me in being permitted to serve you as your presiding officer.

You have brought to us the cheer and inspiration of your presence; Detroit tenders to you her hospitality, the enjoyment of her natural beauties and historical interest; so we may hope for mutual pleasure and benefit, which are among the objects of these reunions.

The inception of a plan to form a bond of union among training-school superintendents for mutual help and encouragement dates from a "round-robin" letter started westward by one of the eastern superintendents about twelve years ago. Though nothing tangible can be directly traced to it, it was nevertheless an expression of a need that was felt to cultivate ties of friendship and co-operation in the important work of teaching and training nurses. That want was met by the organisation of this Society at the first International Congress of Nurses, held at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

One object of our organisation, as stated in the constitution, is, "to further the best interests of the nursing profession by establishing and maintaining a universal standard of training." That clause was elaborated by Miss Nutting in her report of the American Federation of Nurses to the National Council of Women, in Washington, February, 1902, and reads as follows:—"To further the training-schools by establishing universal requirements of admission, a more thorough and extensive curriculum and a longer period of training, shorter hours of duty, and better quarters and conditions for pupils generally." These are clearly definite aims toward the higher education of the nurse.

Organisation was justly considered the first step toward attaining standards, and how far that has been accomplished may be briefly touched upon.

In 1896, through the efforts of this Society, there was formed the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, a

national body now representing forty-five local alumnae associations and about 3,000 trained nurses. The objects set forth by them are "to strengthen the union of nursing organisations, to elevate nursing education, and to promote ethical standards in all the relations of the nursing profession."

In London, in 1899, there was founded the International Council of Nurses—"to provide a means of communication between the nurses of all nations, and to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality." Further, "to provide opportunities for nurses to meet together from all parts of the world, to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of their patients and their profession."

In 1900 our Society and the Nurses' Associated Alumnae were affiliated, and under the title of the American Federation of Nurses were admitted to the National Council of Women of the United States, which was formally organised March 31st, 1888, in Washington. The preamble to their constitution reads thus: "We, women of the United States, sincerely believing that the best good of our homes and nation will be advanced by our own greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, and that an organised movement of women will best conserve the highest good of the family and the State, do hereby unite ourselves in a confederation of workers committed to the overthrow of all forms of ignorance and injustice; and to the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom, and law." Its motto is the apostrophe: "Lead, Kindly Light."

That Council is affiliated with the International Council of Women, and together they are working for the promotion of the "Council Idea," which Mrs. Sewall sums up as "the climax in the organisation of the moral forces of society by women, and standing for the broadest mutual respect and sympathy, and for the peace which makes for righteousness." Its guide is the precept, "Do unto others as you would that they should do to you."

That sums up the history of our organisation. The statements quoted from the various constitutions may be called a declaration of our principles, and they serve to show to what we are committed by virtue of our association with those several organisations. To live up to them we must take our place in the arena of the world's activities, and assume our share of the responsibility, endeavouring to work with intelligence and an exalted purpose.

One of the educational features of organisation is the spread of new thought as it develops, and in that way more minds are enlightened and more of truth is revealed to mankind—and above all things we need the Truth to guide us to right action and right living. Let us see how far we have profited by our advantages.

One of the early efforts of this Society was to

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