

The American Nursing World.

The New Jersey State Nurses' Association, formed to obtain legislation for nurses, has lately been busy discussing the title the members desire to use after registration. The New York and Illinois Associations have determined that the title shall be "Registered Nurse," of which we highly approve, as it was the title chosen by British nurses in the good old professional days of the R.B.N.A. Virginia nurses have not yet decided the question, but think they will be guided by New York. The titles discussed for choice were "Registered Nurse," "Graduate Nurse," "State Registered Nurse," and "Registered Graduate Nurse." In the end, no doubt, all the States will agree to a uniform title to prevent confusion.

The third annual meeting of the Spanish-American War Nurses was recently held at Washington, and every honour was paid them by high officials, the President and Mrs. Roosevelt giving them a delightful welcome at the White House, which they attended in their charming white uniforms. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee presided at the meetings, and at one Surgeon-General Sternberg delivered a most sympathetic address, in which he paid a high tribute to the work of the nurses during the war.

The members paid a visit to the National Cemetery at Arlington, and inspected this touching "Field of the Dead." In this cemetery a beautiful site has been especially set apart for the burial of the nurses who served in the Spanish War, and in a corner of it the ground has already been prepared for a monument which this Society proposes to erect to the memory of their comrades who died for their country at the post of duty.

A correspondent writes that a charming scene was presented at the graduating exercises of the first class of nurses trained at the Mercedes School of Nurses, Havana. The large lecture hall of the new laboratory was brilliantly lighted and was draped with the Cuban flag. President Palma presided, and was announced by a band playing the Cuban national hymn "Bayama." Accompanying the President were members of his Cabinet, and Archbishop Barnada.

The graduating class, wearing pale blue uniforms, occupied one side of the platform with their superintendent, Miss O'Donnell. Dr. Henry Núñez delivered the opening address, congratulating the graduates on their courage and perseverance in completing their three years term of training, and bidding them welcome into the profession of nursing.

Dr. Tomayo, Secretary of State, called the names of the graduates in the following order:—Srita. Trinidad Cantero, Srita. Martina Guevara, Srita. Rosa Gallardo, Srita. Adelaida Rendos, Srita. Antonia Tejedor, Srita. Bienvenida Canton, Srita. Rose Seiglie. As the name of each nurse was called she advanced to receive her diploma and pin from the hands of President Palma, who accompanied the presentation with a kindly word for each. Dr. Martinez then, on behalf of the faculty, presented each graduate with a bouquet of choice roses. Flowers were also presented to the class by one of the senior nurses in the name of her companions, and by the pupils of Hospital No. 4 School, who were present with their superintendent, Miss Eugénie Hibbard.

A beautiful gold medal was awarded to Srita. Trinidad Cantero by the President, on having fulfilled the requirements by passing the best examination and attaining to a high standard of practical work and conduct.

The class was warmly congratulated by Dr. Tomayo on behalf of the President as being the first composed of women of the Latin race who had graduated as trained nurses. He closed his address by asking them to remember that their success was largely due to the American nurses who had taught them by precept and example to perform their duties in a proper spirit.

The Firstfruits.

We understand that the nursing staff at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, where Her Majesty's Imperial Military Nursing Service is to be inaugurated, will consist of a Matron, seven Sisters, twelve Staff Nurses, and twenty-five Nursing Orderlies, with other orderlies for wardmaids' duties who will belong to the General Duty Section. It is not the intention of the War Office to abolish nursing orderlies, but it will in future give them a regular course of training, such as is received by probationers in good civil hospitals, and their duties will be confined to nursing only. This is the firstfruits of the work of the Matron-in-Chief and Nursing Board. The adequate training of nursing orderlies has been a crying need in the Army, and not only should the men, when thoroughly trained, be a valuable section of the military nursing service in time of war, but they should also provide, in time of peace, thoroughly trained male nurses for the civilian public. So far we are in the anomalous position that, while we have many so-called male nurses taking private nursing cases, there is no general training-school in this country where they can obtain a professional education.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)