

profession and themselves suffer loss of resources, it behoves us to consider the matter seriously, because the graduate of ten or more years' service in private duty is now considered by the medical profession as belonging to another era, and consequently no longer fit for the more delicate, intricate, and scientific parts of a nurse's work.

Guided by the principle that influenced one of our great financiers when he said, "The way to resume is to resume," might not some energetic, progressive head of a school likewise say, "The way to begin is to begin," and act accordingly? Surely those who have already made excellent provision for a preliminary training might solve this problem. It might be no unwise plan for the post-graduate to become for a short time a member of the probationers' practice class in preliminary instruction, and thus be taught present methods of work. She might be allowed a half-day's service in the wards in the actual care of the sick. She should not be called upon for the same number of repetitions required of probationers, her previous training making that unnecessary.

In the hands of the wise superintendent this mingling of the old and the new might be made to redound to the advantage of both. The presence of the post-graduate, who, we assume, is an earnest woman, would (by reason of her past success) furnish visible evidence of the end to be attained and be an incentive to best effort on the part of the beginner. She, in turn, might receive from them some of the fire and enthusiasm of youth.

The wisdom or folly of any plan can be proved by trial. But no doubt some scheme will be evolved whereby both school and post-graduate will be compensated.

We have also by our constitution placed ourselves on record as proposing to promote the *honour* and usefulness of the nursing profession. Possibly nothing sheds more real honour upon our fidelity to this trust than the so-called Army Bill—an Act of Congress which placed the trained nurse in service in the army. It may be argued that the nurses were not responsible for this—that their Bill did not pass, &c. Granting the truth of some of these claims, we yet assert—and our assertion will doubtless be maintained, even by the most bitter partisan of the opposition—that the passage of the Army Bill was due to the importunity of the nurses.

The election of nurses upon School Boards, as has been done in England, increases their influence in large measure.

The establishment of the position of the school nurse in the city of New York was a long step in advance, and not only increased her usefulness to a vast extent, but multiplied by an untold number the advantages to be derived by the families represented in the schools, and we may expect to see an appreciable diminution in the devastation by con-

tagious diseases as one of the results of her well-timed service. Of some of the results of this as yet new work we shall hope to hear during these Convention days.

Again, the usefulness of the trained nurse has been greatly extended in those cities and towns where she has been placed upon Boards of Inspection for tenement houses. Unfortunately, Boards of Health resent her appearance in such work, but they are led to assume the defensive because they fail to understand the real intent and purpose of the nurse. As time goes on and more and more cities make trial of the nurses' services as tenement-house inspectors, and as the nurses prove their efficiency, all animosities will disappear and she will be welcomed to that place as to every other that has called her. Meantime much will be done to overcome prejudice and hasten the day of her kind reception in that sphere if our brothers can be made to understand that we are not supplanting them, but simply asking to be permitted to do the work hitherto left undone or improperly done.

We are proud of our affiliation with other women workers in the National Council of Women, but, being a body with no leisure, we have as yet realised little from this connection. Large activities and wholesome growth call for great expenditures of time, and doubtless as we become more able to work with the National Council of Women we shall be benefited in proportion, for there can be no exception to the rule that our greatest personal benefits come through our efforts in behalf of others.

There are hopes also—yea, grounds of confidence for the inspiration of a belief—that there is a new avenue opening for the usefulness of the trained nurse. Few will be called to walk therein—none but the strong and well-equipped—and when nurses take their places upon Boards of Examiners for the State Registration of members of their own profession, as they are sure to do, our hopes will be fully realised.

Never in the history of nursing have there come times so auspicious for progress and betterment as these through which we are now passing. To us is given the opportunity to turn them to advantage. May we be wise and wide awake, that it may not pass unimproved.

Again, we have as one of our avowed purposes that of maintaining a "code of ethics." In this we have been found wanting. We have looked well to our educational and commercial advantages, but little thought has been spent upon our ethical culture, and this is not because we have not those among us who could and would be our leaders and teachers, neither is it because of the scarcity of apt pupils for the teachers, but because we of the rank and file do not ask for instruction along these lines. There is a vagueness—even a mystery—surround-

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