

societies. But I also see very plainly that there must be in the country some body especially delegated to maintain the highest educational standard that is possible.

"Now the question in my mind is whether the cause of educational progress will not be better advanced by having this society, for a number of years at any rate, retain its comparatively strict and high standing. The State societies must begin with the lowest standards compatible with professional ideals. They will for a long while probably represent the minimum degree of education. This Associated Alumnae has always stood for the maximum. Now is it ready to give up the maximum and descend to the minimum? If not, it seems to me, for the present at least, the most practical arrangement would be to include our State societies on a friendly basis, on what you might call a fraternal delegate basis. I do not, Madam President, express any decided views, because I admit I see very plainly a great deal on both sides. I see the educational value of having one body in a community which strictly adheres to the highest standard, because I believe its mission, message, and purpose is to beckon on the struggling and democratic communities which are trying to improve, but which are obliged to rest on the minimum basis of requirement."

Miss Dock also asserted that in many instances the third year is a fraud to the nurse. She said:—"I know many schools which have adopted the three years' course, and which have in no wise improved their curriculum; they have not shortened their hours; they really give the nurses no extra advantages in education. The term 'general hospital' is so indefinite that it really means nothing at all. I would like to see this Association set an example to all the societies by discarding the term 'general hospital' and by specifying a course of practical training which this Society thinks is the ideal at present for the nurse. I would like to see private work done by undergraduates, whether in the second, third, or fourth year, or whether for a week, or a month, or a year, absolutely condemned."

There are many nurses on this side the Atlantic who will share Miss Dock's desire for a more precise definition of nurse-training, for the need of the existence of a society pledged to the maintenance of professional ideals, and for the absolute condemnation of private nursing by undergraduates.

Dr. Anita McGee, President of the Spanish-American War Nurses, announces that the Spanish War Veterans have cordially invited the Spanish-American War Nurses to join in the social features of their annual encampment, to be held at New Haven, Conn., September 22nd to 24th next. They hope that many nurses may be present, and that some form of affiliation between the two organisations may be arranged.

Practical Points.

Formaldehyde in Milk. The test for the presence of formaldehyde in milk is to dilute the suspected milk with an equal volume of water and underlay the resulting solution with sulphuric acid containing a trace of ferric chloride. A violet zone at the junction of the liquids indicates formaldehyde; in normal milk the zone will be brown.

Electric Curling Iron Heaters. Electric curling-iron heaters are devices far more important to the lady traveller than many toilet accessories, and in all electrically lighted homes they are a necessity.

They are fixtures in the rooms of the greatest hotels in America, such as the Hotel Touraine, Waldorf-Astoria, &c., as well as the more important steamship lines, such as the North German Lloyd, Hamburg-American Line, Yacht Niagara, &c. There are more than 40,000 in daily use. The portable types may be attached to any lamp socket, heat quickly, use no more current than an incandescent lamp, and render unnecessary the use of more or less dangerous heating devices in the dressing-room.

To Prevent Draw-sheets from Wrinkling. To nurses in charge of bed-ridden and helpless patients, the *National Hospital Record* offers the following suggestion for preventing draw-sheets from wrinkling. Have your draw-sheets slightly wider than the mattress, with a wide hem on either side through which run a firm wooden lath, such as is commonly used for window blinds. These laths have holes bored in them at each end, with corresponding button-holes in the hem of the sheet. Pass through the holes strings of stout tape, and tie firmly to the bedstead. Of course, the sheet must be placed under the patient in the usual way before inserting the laths. Draw-sheets treated in this way will remain smooth much longer than they can do by merely tucking in.

Points to be Noted when a Course of Iron is Being Taken. In administering a course of iron, says Miss L. L. Dock, any one or more of the following symptoms may be noted, indicating an excess in the system:—Frontal headache, slight disturbances of the digestion, irritation of the stomach or of the bladder, a feeling of weight at the epigastrium, constipation, a feverish condition. An acne of the face and chest is sometimes produced by iron, and the reduced iron causes eructations of gas.

It is very important to remember that all preparations of iron stain clothing, carpets, in fact everything touched, and that the stains are with difficulty removed. Silver spoons should never be used for iron, but, if they have been, the stain will come off if rubbed with ammonia water undiluted. Oxalic acid will take the stains out of muslin or linen.

Tincture of iron should never be given at the same time with tea or with other medicines containing tannin, as an ink-like combination results. It should not be added to whisky, but may be well given in milk, being dropped in at the moment when it is to be taken. Iron attacks the teeth, unless properly diluted, and should always be given through a

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