

educational problems, and the chaos and economic injustice which was threatened so long as each school was a law to itself. Consequently the whole united strength of the profession had been bent towards securing such legislation in regard to nursing as regulates other special forms of education, with the result that the State Associations of Nurses had succeeded in laying the foundation of a minimum standard of nursing education, fixed by State examinations with examining boards of nurses, in five States, and were working to the same end in a number of others.

Mme. ALPHEN SALVADOR described the foundation in Paris, five years ago, of the Professional School of Assistance to the Sick. She alluded to the admirable training of nurses in England, and the knowledge and tenderness with which they performed their work. It was, she said, to create an honourable career for women, and to provide the sick with skilled care, that the School of Assistance to the Sick had been founded, the object of which was to extend its service not only to Paris, but to the whole of France.

Sister AGNES KARLL, the President of the German Nurses' Association, in a paper on "The Future Training of the German Nurse," said that there was hardly a profession in which the personality, character, and talent of the individual were of so great importance as in the profession of nursing, because in no other was human material so continuously acted upon. She showed how in Germany the earliest attempts at nursing were under clerical direction, and that, therefore, it was only during the last few decades that the necessity for special professional training had been recognised.

Religion, as the fountain of the indispensable patience and devotion, would be for all time the strongest pillar of a profession which made such high demands upon its members, but this did not obviate the necessity for special professional training.

As the rapid development of culture generally during the last decade caused great increase in medical science, the demand grew for a school of nurses to assist the doctors. Again, the experience of the wars of the last decade, contemporary with the most important advances of surgery, made a considerable change in the conception of nursing. The necessity for the further training of nurses was soon perceived, and many eminent medical men regarded it as an honour to do their best to further the movement.

Some of the best books of instruction came out at this time. Unfortunately, the interest of the medical world in trained nursing seemed since then to have greatly declined.

After the war of 1870, excellent training began to be developed in the Mother-Houses of the Red Cross, but the need for trained nursing grew so enormously that, unfortunately, the training was impaired to meet pressing needs. As personality and natural talent are such important factors in nursing,

women who appeared specially suitable were at first put to quite responsible work with little or no technical training, and were soon irresistibly forced further on.

To outsiders this lack of thorough training appeared unimportant, because in no other profession could such valuable knowledge, and experience in practical work, be acquired by those possessing talent and application, by the assistance of medical men. Yet these nurses, deceived as to the necessary amount of training, were conscious of their deficiency in technical knowledge.

At the present time in Germany both the length of training and the methods of nursing education varied very greatly, but a movement was now on foot for the State Regulation of Training, and the speaker therefore insisted on the importance of a clear knowledge of the best training attainable. One point of importance which she emphasised was that, as nursing education could never be regarded as complete, post-graduate courses of instruction should be continually held, which might well be founded on the model of the German military sanitary arrangements, which provide, after the foundation training has been received, regular continuation lessons not only for the doctors, but also for the orderlies as long as they are serving with the colours. The speaker concluded by saying that it was the firm hope of German nurses that the Government would take measures to lay a firm foundation upon which they themselves could build further, until ultimately the goal of efficiency was attained.

Miss GOODRICH, Superintendent of the Training-school for Nurses, New York Hospital, said: "Madam President, and Ladies of the Congress,—It is with reverent affection we return to the Fatherland, the birthplace of our profession, in this year of our Lord 1904, to place before you the records you desire of our progress and standing in the United States." The speaker then gave statistics, obtainable from the Board of Education in Washington, concerning the Training-schools for Nurses, and showed that, while in 1881-82 there were but sixteen such schools, these having courses not exceeding two years, and established in but few States, in 1900-01 over 430 schools were reported, 248 having a two years' course, 135 a three years' course, and representing nearly every State from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

But, phenomenal as was this increase, it was not the greatest evidence of advance. An ever-increasing appreciation of the power of organisation led first to the formation of individual alumnae associations, which within a few years developed into a National Associated Alumnae "to strengthen the union of nursing organisations, to elevate nursing education, to promote ethical standards in all the relations of the nursing profession." The same year that saw the formation of

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