

It is essential that the nurses themselves should take part in the discussion of this vital question. The reason given for deferring Registration is that "sick nursing is still in a state of continual development." But this will always be the case, and any Nursing Act must be sufficiently elastic to admit of future development if it is to be effective. Nursing is not a trade, the details of which can be learnt once and for all, but a profession which must be free to meet the needs of altered conditions due to the constantly increasing knowledge of the science of medicine.

Professional Review.

THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

The Report of the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, which contains an account of the Tenth Annual Convention held at Pittsburg, is, as usual, full of interest.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Miss Ida F. Giles, President of the Society and Superintendent of Nurses at the Homœopathic Hospital, Pittsburg, briefly reviewed the work of the Society, "that we may find an incentive to greater exertion, heartier enthusiasm in undertaking new and arduous tasks, an unfaltering trust in the power of the Society for good and great progress. It is often," she said, "by looking back and recalling the various steps that the real proportion of a great enterprise can be judged.

"Think what the formation of the Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada has done for the profession; what has been brought about by agitating the question of State Organisation; what we may accomplish by the wise legislative measures which had their origin under this Association, and which we have come prepared to discuss and to aid by our influence. Through this Association the Chair in Hospital Economics has been established at Columbia University. Broader lines of work have been encouraged and supported, plans for taking care of people of moderate means have been worked out and made practical, district nursing has been improved and more systematised. These are but a very few of what are almost direct results of the Society. Necessarily, in a review of this kind only the really tangible results can be placed before us. Behind all these are the far-reaching influences—all the forces for good set in motion—and we with our finite minds know not where they touch or how far they reach. We cannot close our eyes to the great results we have brought about, nor can we fail to appreciate the value of these influences. Everywhere they are making themselves felt, everywhere widening the scope and usefulness of the Society."

Referring to the question of State Registration, Miss Giles said: "I would urge upon the Society the crying need of unity of purpose and concerted action in regard to working for State Registration. There must be great unity of purpose in this, so that the efforts of the Society may be brought to bear upon a question which is of so vital importance, not only to the profession, but to the community also. The rights and privileges of the nurses must be protected. Under State Registration it would be impossible for those who have been expelled from training-schools on account of ill-conduct, incompetency, or insubordination, or

have not been allowed to complete their probationary term, to represent themselves as graduates. The public would not be imposed upon, and the standard of nurses injured."

THE CLASS IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS.

An interesting letter was read from the members of the Class in Hospital Economics, who said:—

"We, the present Class in Hospital Economics, Teachers' College, wish to extend greetings to the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, and beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to that Society for the splendid opportunities given us for this advanced work. We feel it a great privilege to be a part, however small, of this great University, and to be able to spend a year in this beautiful spot. We trust that our work may fully express our appreciation of the course, and of our interested and efficient instructor, Miss Alline."

The report of the Committee on Hospital Economics, presented by Miss Maud Banfield, showed that the course was intended "to teach those who are already thoroughly well taught in the practical side of their duties, how best to utilise their knowledge, and how best to impart it to others." The report continues:—"Undoubtedly teachers are born, but they have also to be taught. The best teachers need the best teaching, in order to enable them to use their natural gifts to the best advantage.

"As you will see by looking over the list of students, nearly all who have entered this year have had previous experience in hospital administrative work. We find we can do much more for these students than we can for those who have never held positions of responsibility, and who have no conception of the difficulties met with in executive work. The difference in appreciation and utilisation of the work afforded is very marked." The cost to each student is approximately 500 dols. for the teaching year, and an excellent testimony to the value of the instruction given is Miss Banfield's assurance, "on no occasion have I heard the expenditure of this money regretted, although many of the students had to earn it before they could spend it."

PAPERS.

Many interesting papers were read at the Conference: "Can the Study of Current Events be made the Means of Recreation for Pupil Nurses?" by Miss Jane Delano, Superintendent of Nurses Bellevue Hospital Training-School, followed by another by Miss Jennie Cottle, Superintendent Minnequa Hospital School, Pueblo, Colorado; "The Modern Hospital and the Modern Nurse," by Miss Alice Griswold; "The Year's Progress in Army Nursing," by Mrs Dita H. Kinney, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps; "A Description of the Heating, Lighting, and Ventilation of the Lying-In Hospital, New York," by Miss C. Louise Burdette; "Some Common Points of Weakness in Hospital Construction," by Miss A. W. Goodrich, Superintendent of Training School, New York Hospital; "What has been Accomplished in the Way of Legislation for Nurses," by Miss Mary W. McKechnie, Superintendent of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children; "The Duty of this Society in Public Work," by Miss L. L. Dock; "The Teaching of Hygiene in Theory and Practice," by Miss Isabel McIsaac; and "Modern Hospital Construction," by Mr. Frank M. Day.

The Report is one which everyone interested in nursing organisation should possess and study.

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