

Speaking to the first class graduated from St. John's Hospital, Red Wing, Minnesota, the Rev. Theodore Graebner described the nurse as a "prisoner of her calling." She was subject to severe criticism. Did she go about smiling? it was unseemly hilarity; did she assume a solemn mien? it was profound melancholy. She must meet peevishness with unwearying amiability, and perversity with unflinching tact. She must labour unremittingly without expectation of reward, neither the prizes of this world nor even the gratitude of those whom she helped. No fame awaits her, and no applause spurs her to fresh effort. It is heroism in humility, unflinching devotion without recognition. Nevertheless, there is the reward that duty well done always brings.

Before Miss Isabel McIsaac left the Illinois Training-School, Chicago, with which she has been identified for over eighteen years as pupil and Superintendent, she received many beautiful expressions of the esteem in which she was held by her co-workers and associates. The pupils of the school gave her a box of very beautiful table linen, including tablecloths, napkins, and two very exquisite pieces of Chinese embroidery, the Alumnae Association a grandfather's clock, and the Board of Women Managers an oak chest of silverware with a letter expressing their appreciation of her faithful services.

In a letter to the editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, not written for publication, Miss McIsaac speaks of this letter from the Board as compensating her for "many weary days and sorrowful nights," and, she goes on to say, "whatever has befallen me in that strenuous place, I have never lacked for sympathy and confidence in the Board. If there is another such body of women, I have never heard of them."

Miss Macleod, the Lady Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, is now on a visit to this country, and is anxious to secure financial help for the Order. There are numerous openings for the nurses' work on all sides, but the funds are not sufficient to meet all the demands made upon them. It will be remembered that the Order was founded in 1897, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen. Part of its work is to provide cottage hospitals in outlying districts, both because, in these districts, it is difficult to give adequate care to the sick in their own homes, and also because the services of the nurses are thus utilised to the best advantage. A special training is given to fit the nurses for their future work, before they are sent to distant provinces. The headquarters of the Order are at Ottawa. The nurses are doing excellent work in all the provinces of the Dominion.

## The Hospital World.

### IMPRESSIONS OF THE PARIS HOSPITALS.

After a year's travel, France is too inconveniently big a country to do justice to, and French trains are rather slow. Feeling a little fagged and poor also, I saw only Paris and Parisian hospitals, and could not go to Bordeaux to see the fine work of Dr. Anna Hamilton, whose propaganda in favour of nursing reform has been, and continues to be, so vigorous, so courageous and outspoken, and whose school of nursing is patterned on sound English lines.

But Paris! What a remarkable condition of affairs is found in its hospitals! Parisian hospitals are, to Italian hospitals, like the second volume of a story. In Italy, the nursing is still that of the middle ages, with religious Sisters in complete control everywhere; under them, but kept well out of sight, are the ignorant, untrained, unrefined servant-nurses, and the Sisters stamp the hospitals with their own air of serene devotion and peacefulness.

In the great hospitals of Paris there has been a revolution. The second volume of the story shows a complete transformation. The Sisters are gone. The religious orders have been entirely and in wholesale fashion removed from the hospital service (with the exception only of the *Hôtel Dieu*), lifted, as it were, into space, and the servant-nurses or "infirmières" have risen into complete occupation of the wards, as the first step towards the evolution into a modern nursing service.

To understand fully all that has gone on in the hospitals of Paris one would have to make a complete study of political conditions, which, as everyone knows, would involve also a study of the clerical power. Without venturing into such deep and troubled pools, there are one or two superficial impressions, which even a passing visitor cannot fail to receive, which I would like to share with you. It is evident that a tremendous and even heroic effort has been continuously put forth since the secular nursing system has been established (now some twenty odd years ago) to attain the modern hospital idea and to produce the educated secular nurse, and the most remarkable thing about it is that this has been projected, and planned out, and carried on by men entirely, who, apparently, find within themselves the motives for trying to attain the new standard in hospital nursing. This seems to me a most remarkable and unusual condition, quite unique indeed, and, although one must admit that their results were, for some years, most discouraging, and are even yet far from showing the fruits of an equal period of time in England or America, yet, nevertheless, in justice one must give large meed of credit and recognition of the purpose and the unceasing effort.

To realise how unusual a thing this man managed

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