

ungrudgingly given by those whose every spare moment should be spent in much needed recreation, and though we could mention innumerable doctors who have not only given lectures week after week and spent much time in their preparation, but have insisted on and carefully corrected written examinations that must have taken hours, yet we must maintain that the greatest need of our schools will not have been met until in some way *qualified instructors in every subject have been obtained, and qualified instruction demands a salary.* And what does such instruction mean?

It means at the head of all departments to give instruction in every detail of those departments, graduate nurses, who, having shown an ability to teach, have taken additional and necessary courses in teaching methods. It means instruction in anatomy, physiology, and other required subjects, either by young men fresh from the medical schools, or, better still, by nurses who have taken a degree in medicine. It means instruction of the classes in medical and surgical conditions, in groups of eight or ten, at the bedsides of the patients, by selected men. It means classes at such hours and in such numbers as will not interfere with the hospital routine; and, above all, it means earnest, interested pupils, with minds fresh and alert to absorb the theory and adapt it to the practical work, conditions of mind not likely to be found if, as has been and is still generally the case (for this is what gratuitous lectures mean), the theory be presented at the end of ten or twelve hours of incessant activity, and—may we not truthfully add?—anxiety.

Surely, if our country finds it necessary to appropriate vast sums of money to provide qualified teachers in our public schools, in the Philippines, in Porto Rico, demanding that they shall be normal school or college graduates with one or two years' experience, we are not unreasonable in asserting that no schools exist that have greater need of the freedom in selecting instructors, and the arrangement of courses that salaried service allows, or of experienced teachers that the essential theory may be given with a minimum waste of time.

To confront institutions hardly able to meet their present expenses, and in many instances carrying a heavy debt, with a proposition for salaried instruction seems futile, but *the first and most important step towards the attainment of any object is an appreciation of its need.* If only 40 per cent. of the schools have courses in dietetics and only 32 per cent. in massage, the fact remains that such courses, in nearly all cases, have been introduced within the last five years, that they require a special appropriation, and in some way the necessary sum has been obtained.

The provision by the hospital of the uniforms and text-books, instead of the monthly sum for that purpose, permits of a surplus sufficiently large to be

of great assistance. A number of schools, as we know, have adopted this method, some even for years. Its universal adoption would do away with the difficulties now attending it. It is the need that the nurses have felt of theoretical instruction that forced the instruction; it is their appreciation of the value of thorough preparation for the many branches of the profession that will lead them to prefer the school that offers it, let the other conditions be what they may.

That problems very difficult of solution await us in the future we are only too well aware, but the introduction of salaried instruction into our schools is one that we feel confident will be solved. Not only is its need too apparent, but the interest in all educational advance is too widespread not to touch schools whose importance the public cannot fail eventually, and are indeed already beginning to appreciate. Surely, members of the community whose need is felt in the homes of the wealthy, in our city tenements, in our country districts, in the inspection of our schools, in our army, and as administrators and instructors in our institutions, are a power and an influence whose education, both general and professional, should be of the broadest order that they may be ready to meet the demands made upon them.

What is our experience but a height from which we should be able to discern more clearly what the requirements of the future will be? Is it not, therefore, for us, into whose hands their guidance has been placed, to make unceasing efforts to obtain for our pupils such thorough and systematised instruction that they may enter the many fields that await them, demonstrating that every detail of nursing is an art, and that not only is the profession a noble calling, but in every sense a science?

The Treatment of Inebriety.

A new departure in the treatment of confirmed inebriety has, says the *British Medical Journal*, recently been made in New York. This consists of a combination of gaol and hospital to which drunkards may be committed by City Magistrates or Justices of the Supreme Court for treatment. At present there is no place to which such authorities can send habitual drunkards, or narcomaniacs—a circumstance which not only tends to perpetuate this class of offender, but also plays into the hands of proprietors of quack "institutes" and "drink cures," which cure nothing but plethora of the patient's purse, or what Rabelais called *l'imposthume pécuniaire*. Commitment to the New York hospital gaol may be for a term less than a year on complaint of a father, mother, sister, or brother, or of a child against its parent. The hospital is to be in charge of three physicians appointed by the Mayor. By an appropriate arrangement, the building and its site will be paid for out of Excise moneys.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)