

"While this situation remains unchanged that the great nursing body provides service only for the rich who can pay, and the poor who are paid for, we have little claim to call ourselves a profession, for with a profession goes the obligation of service to others first, and money must be a secondary consideration.

"This is a mighty subject which requires the serious, deliberate consideration of nurses everywhere, and should be brought up for discussion at all of our great gatherings of nurses."

Our contemporary draws attention to the rule of a Central Directory at Toronto that nurses whose names are lowest on the list shall respond to calls from people able to pay 8 dols. upward. There is often time for four or five weeks' service of this kind; when the nurse's name reaches the top she is called in and is given the full-rate call in her regular turn, the nurse standing lowest on the list relieving her if necessary.

Our contemporary then continues:—

"The fixed trades-union charge must be abolished. If the physician can charge 10,000 dols. for performing a simple appendectomy, spending only a few hours with the patient, why should the nurse whom he intrusts with the care of the patient day and night for three or four weeks be confined to the meagre charge of 21 dols. or 25 dols.—a total of 100 dols. for four weeks of continuous care, against his 10,000 dols.? And, again, when the life of a valuable citizen hangs in the balance and the same physician performs an operation for 50 dols. why should the nurse still keep to her charge of 25 dols. a week when 5 dols. is all that the man can reasonably be expected to pay? Perhaps the patient has never earned 25 dols. a week; he has a wife and children to support; he objects to being a charity patient in the hospital; he is an earnest, conscientious member of the community, and he has a right to stay in his own home if he wants to.

"Break down the fixed charge; let the compensation to the nurse be in proportion to the compensation to the physician, and the rich, the poor, and the great middle class will be equally well provided for; graduates of correspondence schools and short-course schools, with State Registration as a means of distinction between the trained and the untrained, will find no field in which to labour, and in the end nurses will earn more money and will be entitled to be ranked with those professions which consider service to mankind before every other motive.

"We shall hear the cry, 'But the rich will object and the doctors will not be loyal to us,' and our answer is that the rich and the doctors must be educated to the idea that the nurses are working for the benefit of humanity and not for the sole purpose of personal gain. Such a reform must be the work of years, but it is time the movement began. With higher education and State Registration must be combined a broader sense of the nurse's responsibility to humanity.

It would be interesting to hear the views of nurses in this country on this question.

The American Nursing World.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS' SOCIETY.

The twelfth annual meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses will be held in New York City on April 25th, 26th, and 27th, at the Academy of Medicine.

After the first session the Society will be entertained at lunch at Delmonico's by the alumnae associations of New York City.

The New York Hospital Nurses' Club will entertain the Society at a tea at their clubhouse.

The Society is invited to inspect the Nurses' Settlement exhibit on Thursday.

There will be a reception at the Florence Nightingale Hall, of the Presbyterian Hospital, at 9 o'clock.

The morning session on Friday will be at 10 o'clock. A demonstration of some practical methods of nursing will be given in the Sims Operating Room at Roosevelt Hospital from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

A very interesting list of papers is announced.

The question of Economy in Hospital Work and Administration will first be taken up by Dr. John Brannon, President of the Board of Bellevue Hospital, who is one of the leaders in reforms along these lines in New York. There will be a paper on Children's Hospitals by Miss Mariana Wheeler, Nurses' Homes by Miss Shaw, The Purchase and Use of Domestic Supplies by Miss Lena Lightbourn, The Hospital Laundry by Miss Lucy Walker, and The Management of the Laundry in Small Hospitals by Miss C. D. Noyes; the Purchase and Care of Drugs by Miss G. M. Nevins, Surgical Supplies and Equipment, by Miss Anna Ross, Economy in Operating Room Technique by Miss Anna Jamme, a report on the Affiliation of Training Schools for Nurses by Miss Helena McMillan, a paper by Miss Dock, and an address on the Red Cross Nurses by Miss Mabel T. Boardman, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Red Cross Society, Washington, D. C.

We greatly regret to learn that Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, is suffering from an attack of diphtheria; we hope to hear of her speedy recovery. The arrangements are in the hands of the President, Miss Goodrich, whose acquaintance English nurses made with so much pleasure at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Berlin in 1904.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)