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Editorial.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CEREMONIAL.

In British hospitals the presentation of certificates to probationers is usually made by the Matron in the privacy of her office, each of the newly certificated nurses going down singly to receive this official document.

In the United States and Canada the occasion is made a public one, all the nurses who can be spared from the wards assembling for the function, when the presentation of certificates is made by the President of the hospital or some other important person, and also, annually, at these graduation exercises, as they are called on the other side of the Atlantic, the Superintendent of the Training School presents her report of its work for the year.

From the Report which we publish in another column, presented by Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent of the Training School for Nurses at the General Hospital, Toronto, it will be seen of what value and interest these reports are, and we think that the time has come when this excellent example might well be followed in this country. The training school for nurses in connection with any hospital is an important branch of its work, it is not too much to say that on its efficiency, or inefficiency the good name of the hospital largely depends. It is therefore of the utmost moment that it should be worked on the best possible lines. To the credit of the Matrons it must be recorded that many of our training schools have done fine work. Yet a record of this work is not drawn up, or presented in concrete form. It is true that from week to week the Matron makes a report of her department to the Committee of the hospital, but progress cannot be gauged in this way as it can from an Annual Summary, drawn up by an expert hand. In the hands of the Superintendent of Nurses

alone are the threads which go to the weaving of such a report, and the institution is the loser if it is never presented.

We commend to the Chairmen of our hospitals the suggestion whether it would not be for the good of the nursing school, if they themselves were to preside over the assembled nurses, on the occasion of the presentation of these certificates, and any marks of distinction such as gold medals, to the new graduates. Friends of the school might also be invited to be present. The nurses would thus realise that they are not units, but part of a great profession, into which they are being welcomed by the President as Head of the Hospital, by the Matron as head of the training school, and by all their senior colleagues, representing the rank and file. We can conceive no ceremony more calculated to inspire them with the *esprit de corps* which is one of the great factors in stimulating members of a profession to yet higher attainments.

Neither could any better opportunity be found to place before the public, the work of the training school, the aspirations of those responsible for it, and its educational needs.

Writing of the nurses of the Toronto General Hospital at their graduating exercises on October 19th, Miss Snively says:—"I wish you could have seen my school on the 19th. I was proud of them. I can assure you," and we think that this is the feeling which would inspire the heads of our own hospitals, if they could see assembled before them the Sisters, Staff Nurses and probationers, some already having gained honourable public distinction, others who have won respect by the way in which they discharge their daily responsibilities, and the newly certificated nurses with their laurels yet to gain, in whose hands lie the reputation of their training school in years to come.

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