

have had three years' training in a recognised general Hospital or Infirmary, and be certificated. We sympathise with those Nurses who dread the isolation in a Fever Hospital, but feel sure that the experience gained in this valuable branch of their work, and the extreme interest and satisfaction which they would experience in attending upon and helping to restore to health patients suffering from infectious diseases, would largely compensate them for the counterbalancing disadvantages.

It was also reported that Nurse WHIPPEL had, since her appointment in June 1892, been twice attacked with diphtheria whilst in the discharge of her duty; that these attacks had left her considerably paralysed, that she was quite unable to walk, and therefore altogether incapable of further duty; and that in the opinion of the medical superintendent it would be a very long time before she was again able to follow any occupation whatever. We are glad to observe that Mr. BRASS suggested that Nurse WHIPPEL should be allowed £1 a week for twelve months, at the close of which her case would be considered, and that this eminently just suggestion was adopted.

We have the seventh annual and most satisfactory report of the Barton-on Humber District Nursing Association before us. With Miss ALICE DANNATT as hon. secretary and superintendent, we are not surprised to read that the chief object of the Association is "To provide a *trained, experienced* and reliable Nurse to attend the sick poor in their own homes." We claim for the poor nothing but the *best* of nursing, and hope in time that only "experienced and reliable" Nurses will be sent to them in their need.

"AN American Nurse in England" writes:—

"I always see the NURSING RECORD, and, interested, as I am, in the news concerning Nurses and their work in this country, it was delightful to read an American 'Echo.' Much that 'A Correspondent' observes is no doubt true, and although she is right in the main in stating that the Managers of American Hospitals, which are largely composed of practical women, do not sweat their Nurses, still there are Institutions in the States which send out Nurses to attend to private cases before the expiration of the two years prescribed term of training, notably two Institutions in Chicago—the Illinois Training School for Nurses and the Temperance Hospital. The following extracts are quoted from the Annual Reports for 1892-3, of the former Institution:—'Applicants are received at any time during the year, when there is a vacancy. During the month of trial, and previous to obtaining a position in the School, the applicant will be examined in reading, penmanship, simple arithmetic, and English dictation. Those who prove satisfactory will be accepted as pupil Nurses, after signing an agreement to remain two years, and to obey the rules of the School and the Hospitals. They reside in the Home, and serve, for the first year, as assistants in the wards of the Cook County and Presbyterian Hospitals (both very fine institutions); the second year they will be expected to perform any duty assigned them by the Super-

intendent, either to act as Nurses in the Hospital or to be sent to private cases amongst the rich or poor.'

"Of course the Hospitals organized on the more modern curriculum, such as the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, do not do so. Having visited the principal Nursing Schools in this country, I find many arrangements which appear gravely irregular to my mind, notably the system of Pay Probationers, or rather I may say Privileged Probationers, as in many of your leading schools. It is the rule only to promote as Sisters those Probationers who have paid for a limited period of training, and *not* because, in competition, they have proved themselves the most efficient Nurses, and capable ward organizers. This appears to a free-born American an unjust system, and I was pleased to observe that there was a *very strong* consensus of opinion in the admirable letters of those Matrons who have lately expressed opinions 'in Council,' that such a system is bad, and inevitably leads to friction amongst the members of the Nursing staff. It seems almost impossible that self-respecting, certificated staff Nurses can look up to a Sister, and respect her commands, when she is not as efficiently qualified as the subordinate may be. I am glad to observe that only thoroughly qualified graduates, after examination, are promoted to be Sisters in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and in some of the leading provincial schools. The gravest blot in the organization of many of our American schools is the system of having no permanent Head Nurses; this position being reserved for the senior Probationers, who perform the duties, in rotation, for a period of six months as part of their training—usually after eighteen months' work. This leads, as I can testify from personal experience, to many irregularities, as a junior Probationer should be under the tuition of the most experienced Head Nurse possible, if she is to gain information in the best possible manner."

"I also think 'A Correspondent' is rather hard on my country-women concerning their 'individualism.' From what I know of the heads of English Nurse Training Schools and the battle royal before the Privy Council, which has lately been reported in the Press, it appears to me quite impossible that such an exhibition of 'individualism' could be possible in America, and I feel sure that before very long we shall see the inauguration of a Council of Matrons in the States who will meet and discuss the best methods of progress and organisation in Nursing matters, which will be influenced by a spirit of toleration and *esprit de corps* which will obtain the confidence of the whole Nursing community. We have some *big* women over there—women, I am bound to own, mostly of Canadian extraction—who are strongly imbued with professional feeling, and in warm and active sympathy with our graduate Nurses; and, luckily for us, there are no strong vested interests such as unhappily exist in England, to impede our rapid progress. I should like to add that the work of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the courage and devotion of its leaders, have filled me with profound admiration."

SŒUR ADRIEN, for sixty-four years the Infirmary nun at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, Paris, has passed away. Had she lived but a few days longer she would have been named Chevalière de la Légion d'Honneur, and few have worked more faithfully for their country than the humble nun, who may be said to have exerted a kindly and wholesome influence over generations of French lads. Sœur ADRIEN was popularly supposed to be the last Jansenist left in France, for she had spent her noviceship in the Order of St. Martha, founded by Mère Angélique, the sister of Arnauld.

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