

were the tears shed when the superintendent, whose training at the N. E. Hospital (under Dr. Dimeck, who had studied the German method of nursing as done by the deaconesses) had been thorough, though limited, and who, after graduating from the N. E. Hospital, had spent thirteen months as night superintendent, under the leadership of Sister Helen, whose wonderful executive ability placed the New York Training School, in connection with Bellevue Hospital, upon its firm foundation, and, as a result of this training, she thought the superintendent the person to plan work and make rules for the guidance of her Nurses. This she proceeded to do. The changes were made. The trials accompanying such changes need not be mentioned; they are too well known to every superintendent to make a repetition necessary. The work moved on; soon more wards were given the school; then came a new class; women who were a joy and a pride—they have ever continued to be; to them was due very largely the entire change of feeling toward the training school. Their faithful and intelligent work met with appreciation; their presence gave dignity to the place, and after a time smiles instead of frowns greeted us, and occasionally a word of commendation was heard, at first cautiously spoken, and before very long those who had at first looked upon us with disfavour became our firmest friends, and when the school was declared a success, they spoke of it as "our school," and thought the idea of its organisation originated with themselves. They adopted it, and we rejoiced in having won friends from among those who once had seemed to be our enemies. These are only a few passing memories of one school. Others were soon organised in this city and in other cities in New England, each facing and conquering its own peculiar trials, and each in turn proving to be a wonderful blessing to the hospital with which it is connected. To you who are superintendents of hospitals and training schools, is this wonderful change due. How vastly different are the hospitals of to-day from those same hospitals a score of years ago. A painful duty was a visit to most of them then. To-day a visit to those same hospitals is an inspiration. Visit Bellevue, Blackwell's Island, Tewksbury and many others. They all tell the same story. The perfect cleanliness and order of the wards; the homelike appearance; the contented faces of the patients, make even hospital workers wonder how so much can have been done; surely, a truly wonderful work is this which we are permitted to take a part in. But the progress of the past twenty years is small in comparison to that which will be made in the twenty years to come. Training school superintendents have a mighty work before them; there are perplexing questions to be settled; new branches of the work are to be opened, and new methods of doing the ordinary every day work are to be thought out. Instruction in schools must be made more uniform; the standard must be raised, and upon the superintendents rest the duty of having these matters properly adjusted. Women at the head of training schools are to-day bearing great responsibilities; each one must feel this. The organisation of this association meant a great deal more perhaps than some of us realised. It means much for each member; the responsibilities will not grow less as time goes on; and in extending to you a welcome to-day, I welcome you to the considering of very grave questions; the solution of deep problems which must take much thought and will influence each school represented here, and through these schools, all training schools in America. May the judgment of this society be sound and its decisions wise. So shall we bring much good, not only to our own schools, but to those not represented at this meeting.

The roll-call was responded to by members from all parts of the United States and Canada, and many new names were presented for election. The morning session was then adjourned for luncheon.

At 2 p.m. the meeting was again called to order; the President appointed a committee of three to

nominate officers for the next Convention, consisting of Mrs. Hunter Robb, Miss I. H. Sutcliffe and Miss McIsaac.

Two very interesting Papers were read during the afternoon session, one by Miss Snively, of Toronto General Hospital, on "A Uniform Curriculum for Training Schools," and the other by Mrs. Hampton Robb (late Superintendent Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore), on "The Three Years' Course in Connection with the Eight Hours System." Both of these Papers elicited much discussion, and while it was evidently the mind of the Convention that immediate steps could be taken in the direction of uniformity of education in our Nursing schools, now that some practical suggestions had been made, and that a course of three years' was certainly desirable, still, the eight hours a day plan many were disposed to consider impracticable, inasmuch as it was worked out on the supposition that no additions were to be made to the number of pupils in any given school, and to attempt to incorporate this system in the uniform curriculum would postpone uniformity of Nurse education and training indefinitely. A committee consisting of the Misses Brown, Miss Darche, Miss Merritt, Miss Snively and Miss Sutcliffe was then appointed to consider Miss Snively's basis of uniformity of Nurse training, and to report at the next Convention.

Mrs. Robb contended also that during the third year pupils should spend part of their time in the laundry, linen-room, Superintendent's office, Nurses' Home, &c., with a view to preparing themselves for hospital appointments.

At the close of the afternoon session the members of Convention received an invitation to attend a reception at the Boston City Hospital at 8 p.m. Wednesday evening.

This reception was one of the most pleasant features of the Convention. The Administration Building was beautifully decorated, and all the arrangements were most complete.

The guests were received by Dr. Rowe, Medical Superintendent, Miss Drown, Superintendent of Nurses, and Mr. Sprague, Honorary Secretary of the Board of Trustees of City Hospital; while the Visiting Staff and many other distinguished citizens were present. Supper was served in the library.

The second day's session opened promptly at 10 o'clock.

It was decided that the next Annual Convention should be held in Philadelphia on Feb. 12th and 13th, 1896.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year. Miss Davis, Superintendent, University Hospital, Philadelphia, President; Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent, General Hospital, Toronto, Vice-President; Miss Littlefield, Superintendent Nurses, Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia, Secretary; Miss Drown, Superintendent Nurses, City Hospital, Boston, Treasurer; Miss Brown, Superintendent, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Auditor. The new Councillors: Miss Richards, Episcopal Hospital, Brooklyn, and Miss Darche, Superintendent New York City Training Schools, N.Y.

The following resolution of regret was then moved by Miss Kimber upon the death of Miss Perkins, late Superintendent of Bellevue Training School:—"Since the last meeting of our Convention, we have been called upon to lament the death of a pioneer superintendent of Training Schools, Miss Perkins, for some

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)