

Nurses throughout the land should be bound together by some form of union, definite and distinct. In theory there is now a union of purpose and of aim, but we think there should be some tangible organization embracing all trained Nurses of the American continent, 'Union is strength' is a trite saying. Union is often more than strength; in many cases union is life and disunion is death.

In Holland, that country of dykes and gardens, there is a species of grass from which nurses, as well as others, may learn a lesson. This little plant grows close to the water's edge and in a loose, sandy soil that of itself affords but scanty hold for roots. But the chafing and dashing and fretting of waters has no power to dislodge the tiny plant. What is the secret of its security? Try to pull up one blade and you will find that it is united with its neighbours all around. The roots not only interlace but they unite so that each stalk is bound to all its fellows. One of these small plants, if alone, would perish at once, and even a score would soon be swept away, but thousands, and tens of thousands bound together maintain their hold in calm security, defying the highest waves and fiercest gales.

Unless trained Nurses thus unite the profession from which we expect so much can never materialize; with such union the prospect for speedy advancement in power and usefulness is bright indeed.

Already much has been done to secure a closer union of all interested in scientific Nursing and, doubtless, there are few, if any, Hospital Superintendents and trained Nurses who have not given the subject careful thought.

There should be organized first, we believe, a large number of societies—one in every state in the Union and every province in Canada—only those Nurses being admitted as members who can show satisfactory evidence of thorough training in some reputable school. From these several Societies an International association would naturally spring. One of the duties of the superior organization, acting through the subordinate, would be the separation of trained from untrained Nurses and the devising of some means to enable the public to discriminate between the two classes.

In such a movement there must be opposition, but if trained Nurses unite as they should do it cannot prevail. The co-operation of the medical profession is necessary for the full development of such a scheme, because the two callings are so peculiarly associated; nevertheless, the Nurses themselves must take the initiative; they must be the ones—as they should be—to manage their own affairs.

Nursing in Great Britain owes much of its prestige and standing to the Royal British Nurses' Association, authorized by Royal Charter. All who are enrolled therein are trained Nurses, and a list of these is carefully kept so that the public may know who are skilled and, by inference, who are unskilled Nurses. Such an organization is needed in our own country, but owing to the extensive territory here as compared with that of the British Islands, it must be supplemented by individual societies. We believe this is an important matter and intend to refer to it in next issue."

Again it is encouraging to the Editorial Staff of the *Nursing Record*, to find that their work and views are being placed by a kindly fellow

editor in the States, before a wide circle of readers. Writing of the Convention at Boston, the *Nursing World* says:—

"In many ways the recent convention of training school superintendents at Boston was a highly successful affair and will yield not only immediate but remote benefits to the cause of the training of Nurses.

Our able and progressive contemporary, the *NURSING RECORD*, of London, reproduces the excellent address of the retiring president, Miss Linda Richards, and publishes a report of the proceedings. Referring to Miss Richards' paper our contemporary says:

No one can read the admirable address of Miss Linda Richards, the late President of American Superintendents, without being impressed with the fact that it is mainly due to the self-sacrifice and untiring devotion to duty, and to the practical knowledge of the work necessary on the part of educated women, that the marvellous progress and reform in the Nursing Departments of our Hospitals has been effected. Those of us who have kept notes of our personal experiences during the last twenty years must recognise the significance and value of such work.

There is an inspiration for all Nurses in the thought that the Nursing profession of Great Britain is watching with interest every improvement instituted here, as we also rejoice at every evidence of advancement there.

At the present time the subject of Nurses' Directories is occupying the attention of the profession in both continents. The able and instructive paper of Miss L. L. Dock, of Chicago, read at the convention, presents the case in a forcible manner, while the *NURSING RECORD* deals editorially with the question of the danger of unprofessional control to Nurses. This is, indeed, among Nurses, one of the burning questions of the hour. It is only too well known that for years Nurses' Directories have been managed by unprofessional persons whose sole aim has been the promotion of mercenary ends. The interests of the Nurses themselves have been entirely ignored and in the overruling desire for pecuniary profits the needs of the public have been disregarded. As our English contemporary well says, 'there can be no valid reason advanced why the management and control of Nurses should be undertaken by, or should be entrusted to those who are ignorant of their wants, their wishes and their work.'

AN appreciation of a pleasant and healthful temperature of the air evidently does not form a part of the training of the gentlemen who elect to become the managers of our Variety Entertainments. A popular London Music Hall has been vaunting all the winter in the advertisement sheets of the dailies that the building is "warmed throughout, and that the temperature is always 67°."

We wonder they do not go a step or two further and announce that bronchitis kettles and tent-beds are always kept in full swing; for it is certain that the temperature on which they so pride themselves is more suitable for the sick-room of a double pneumonia or a tracheotomy case, than for the normal breathing of the healthy public.

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