

Alumnæ Associations.*

BY MISS SOPHIE PALMER.

IN gathering up material for this report on alumnæ associations, that I have the pleasure of presenting for your consideration this morning, I have succeeded in obtaining from various sources a list of 164 training schools—twenty in Canada and 144 in the United States. To the superintendents of these schools I addressed a circular card of inquiry, and received personal answers from 109. The remaining fifty-five did not respond.

In a number of instances I had sent communications to hospitals having no training schools, and the superintendents or matrons of these hospitals wrote me very courteous letters, informing me of my mistake. I think I am justified in concluding that those superintendents who did *not* respond have no alumni to report, and are not interested in the subject, for in almost every instance of superintendents *reporting no organisation* some explanation is offered or regret expressed. A number of schools in this list have not yet graduated a class; in others, the number of graduates is small and very much scattered, and in several cases superintendents were waiting to obtain information on the subject at this meeting, before taking active measures for organisation.

Canada.—The laws of Canada require a special permit from the government for the organisation of beneficial societies of any kind, with a fee of 100 dollars.

I have made no attempt to classify these schools with reference to their eligibility for membership in the superintendents' association, excluding, however, the schools connected with insane asylums, private hospitals, and the theoretical schools.

I wish to say further, in explanation, that the list of schools prepared by Dr. Billings for Burdett's Hospital Manual numbers only forty-nine in the United States, so that I feel quite sure my list includes all the larger or more important schools, and a fair proportion of the small ones.

Taking, then, 164 as the number upon which this report is based, I have twenty-one training schools with alumnæ associations or clubs organised and in active operation, with constitution printed; ten training schools with alumnæ associations in process of organisation, constitution *not* printed, making a total of thirty-one. Seventy-eight training schools reporting no or-

ganisation (but showing interest), fifty-five not heard from, making a total of 133.

I will read the names of those schools that have organised, but in giving a synopsis of constitutions, I shall not mention the names of any.

I have received copies of constitutions of twenty-one societies, and these I have divided into three classes:

(1) Those organised and managed entirely by graduates, which are alumnæ associations proper.

(2) Nurses' clubs, admitting to membership pupils of the school, or graduates of other schools.

(3) Religious societies, with a number of the officers, clergymen, or members of the training school board.

Those included in the first class have practically a common object, and the same form of government, differing, of course, in detail to meet the peculiar requirements of each society.

The object of these associations is for the union of the graduates of the respective schools for mutual help and protection, to promote social intercourse and good fellowship, to provide friendly and pecuniary assistance in time of illness or death among members, and to advance the interest of the Nursing profession.

Several societies pledge themselves to support the directory and school.

Only those graduates in good standing in the profession are eligible for membership.

Fees vary from five dollars to fifty cents a year.

The officers are a president, a vice-president, secretary and treasurer, who are elected by ballot at the annual meeting to serve for one year, or until other successors are chosen.

Several of the societies have two vice-presidents, two secretaries—recording and corresponding—and two treasurers—the treasurer proper, *not* a member of the society, and a sub-treasurer, who *is* a member, and who performs the duties *usually* belonging to the treasurer. The duties of the treasurer proper are to have charge of the permanent or invested funds.

The president presides at all meetings, and in her absence the duties of her office are performed by the vice-president.

The duties of the secretaries I need hardly explain.

In the majority of cases the officers form the executive committee and transact all business of the association. They investigate all charges against any member, and she is given opportunity for defence before being expelled from the society.

Several of the societies have a board of trustees, composed of gentlemen, whose election is

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