

permanent—one member acting as treasurer—already mentioned. This board invests the money of the association, and advises the officers of the society when necessary.

Where a society has received legacies, or owns real estate, I should suppose a board of this kind would be necessary, but in small associations having only a contingent fund, it would seem to me better for the governing body to be composed entirely of members of the association, and the form of government to be as simple as possible. The executive committee composed of the officers would certainly be an easy and comprehensive plan to adopt, when a society is forming.

Meetings are held monthly or quarterly usually in the training school parlours. Notice of meetings and special business is sent by mail at least five days in advance by the secretary. Papers, discussions, lectures and social intercourse are the usual features of these meetings.

In a number of societies the election of officers is by ballot, sent by mail; in others, voting is by members present, and the number necessary for a quorum differs.

The benefit fund is composed of all moneys not appropriated for the necessary expenses of the society, obtained from initiation fees, yearly dues, donations and bequests. One has both a sick fund and an annuity fund—the latter being made up of all that is left after expenses and benefits have been paid. One has a beneficial society that is a separate organisation, with an additional fee of six dollars, although all the alumni are eligible for membership.

The amount allowed a sick member from the benefit fund also varies; in some cases the amount is limited to ten dollars a week, in another it is left to the discretion of the executive committee, and, when feasible, the Nurse to be cared for at the Hospital, the society bearing the expense.

Married members, supported by their husbands, are not entitled to benefits.

Nearly all have honorary members, who pay no dues and have no vote, but are allowed to speak in meeting. One has honorary members who pay an annual fee of ten dollars, and life members who pay fifteen dollars.

There are minor points of interest in all the constitutions, but they are too many to enumerate at this time.

Of the clubs there are only four, and they differ from the *alumnæ* associations principally in their rules for membership. Pupils as well as graduates are eligible for membership and can hold office, and the superintendent of the school is the president.

Two of these clubs require no regular membership fee, but the expenses are met by

voluntary contributions. These clubs have no benefit fund.

One requires an annual fee of six dollars for graduates, and three dollars for pupils, but this club has a benefit fund, its primary object being the care of sick members.

There is one directory club—open to all graduates of regular schools; but with a membership of eighty-nine names, only three are from outside schools. This, I will mention, is in connection with the Rochester City Hospital.

All of the clubs are well organised, but would, I think, be required to make some changes in their constitution in order to be eligible for membership in a national *alumnæ* association.

Of the religious societies there are two, and, like the clubs, changes in their constitution would be necessary before membership in a national *alumni* could be considered. These societies are in connection with church Hospitals, and should be classed properly with guilds. They unquestionably hold an important place in the schools with which they are connected.

*Graduate Nurses' Club, Boston.*—There is a Graduate Nurses' Club in this city, admitting to membership graduates from all schools in good standing. Its object is largely instruction and sociability, and it is exceedingly popular, and to nurses in the city fills the need, in a measure, of an *alumnæ* association in connection with their own schools.

The organisation of *alumnæ* associations, in connection with training schools, is comparatively a new movement, and general interest has been stimulated by the agitation of the subject, both in Chicago and at the meeting of this society a year ago. I do not consider it necessary for me to even touch upon the advantages of such societies to Nurses, the object of this paper being simply to show the material available for a national *alumni*.

In conclusion, I want to urge upon the superintendents of schools that have not yet taken steps for organisation the importance of immediate action in this matter. Organisation is the power of the age; without it nothing great is accomplished.

All questions bearing on the ultimate advancement of the profession are dependent upon united action for success.

The directory question, the uniform curriculum, the rejected probationer, every subject that concerns the individual graduate, as well as schools, can only be reached through this channel.

The superintendent can do so easily, what is so very difficult for the graduates alone to accomplish, and *she is the proper person to make*

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