

In those schools where the very shortest hours are adopted Nurses are working nine hours a day in work which taxes the physical strength even of the strong in no small degree, of the moderately strong to the utmost. The long hours of duty in the wards may reduce our pupils to a condition of servitude and in many instances it is not for the purpose of giving them more and better training that they are kept on duty long hours, but for the purpose of rendering service and for economising in the working force of the Institutions that these are maintained.

Working hours should be so arranged as not to exceed nine hours, and should, when possible, be limited to eight hours."

A paper was also read by Miss L. L. DOCK on "A National Association for Nurses and its Legal Organisation." This gave a comprehensive plan, which included local, State, and National organisations. It is impossible to compress this paper, of at least five thousand words, into two lines. As it will be printed in full there is no occasion.

Miss MCISAAC wrote upon the question "Should Undergraduates be sent out to Private Duty?" and answered it with a decided negative, in which she was joined by the other Superintendents, who passed a resolution to that effect.

Mrs. L. QUINTARD considered the "Limitation of Pupil Nurses' Duties in Caring for Male Patients," taking the ground that whatever was absolutely necessary to be done was both modest and womanly, but holding that much might be left to orderlies if they were properly trained.

The last paper was by Miss M. E. SMITH on "Uniforms." She deprecated the careless use of this badge of office, and especially the fact that some who have never earned the right to wear it adopt it as a means of securing positions.

The discussions of these papers were pithy and excellent. They will appear in the official report.

By unanimous vote the fifth Article in the Constitution was mended in accordance with the proposition of last year.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Miss Adelaide Nutting; Vice-President, Miss M. E. P. Davis; Treasurer, Miss L. L. Drown, Boston, Mass.; Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock; Auditor, Miss A. I. Brennan; Councillors, Miss Marion Smith and Miss McIsaac.

A committee with reference to a National Association of Nurses, the "N.A.N." was appointed as a nucleus of a larger Committee on organisation: Misses Dock, McIsaac, Merritt, Brown and Walker.

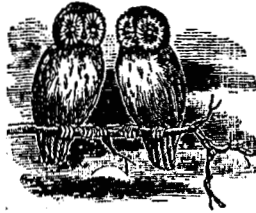
The social pleasures of the Society consisted of various receptions, visits to Hospitals and places of historic interest, and the pleasant luncheons at the Colonnade.

The Society adjourned to meet in Baltimore in February, 1897.

We hope to publish in full the valuable Papers contributed to this Convention; that on "A National Association for Nurses and its Legal Organisation," by Miss L. L. Dock, late Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses at Chicago, will appear next week, and is of great interest at the present moment, when the question of union amongst Nurses is making such steady progress in England,

The Matrons' Council.

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION CONCERNING THE NURSING OF OPERATIONS ON THE INTESTINAL CANAL.



THE second of the series of Practical Demonstrations on Nursing, arranged by the Matrons' Council, took place on Thursday, the 27th ult., at the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, W., when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick gave a Demon-

stration on the Nursing of Operations on the Intestinal Canal. About thirty members were present, and fifty-nine nurses paid for admission. Mrs. Fenwick said:—

"The object of a Demonstration is to teach in a practical manner. I am, therefore, of opinion that, in organising a course of such teaching for Nurses, the Matrons' Council, under whose authority these post-graduate lectures are arranged, are showing themselves aware of the needs of Nurses who have left their Training Schools, and who, therefore, find a difficulty in keeping touch with the new, practical, methods of Nursing, which it is most necessary that they should understand in order to perform in the most efficient manner the duties which they may be called upon to render, under the rapidly progressing medical treatment of the present day.

I intend to address you, therefore, as trained Nurses, and as such I conclude that in your Training Schools you have been taught and have acquired a thorough elementary knowledge of the anatomy of the human body. In the course of this Demonstration, therefore, I shall touch but lightly upon the anatomy of the intestinal canal, and I found when making notes of the various subjects which I desired to bring before you, that if much were not omitted, the Demonstration would occupy the whole night. As you all know, there is, at present, no definite course of Nursing education, nor any fixed standard of efficiency for a trained Nurse. A woman may enter a so-called Training School in connection with a Hospital, and after working in the wards for two or three years, may, through no fault of her own, still be very ignorant concerning the details of the Nursing of many special branches of her work. This is undeniable: and taken into consideration with the acknowledged fact that in private practice, surgery is becoming more and more perfected by specialists, their lack of instruction in the special details of the surgery applied to each organ, places many private Nurses at a great disadvantage.

For instance, I was prompted to take this subject for my lecture to-night in consequence of the following note which I lately received from one of our leading abdominal and rectal surgeons, concerning a most excellent Nurse, holding a three years' certificate from a leading London Hospital:—"The Nurse sent is untrained, so far as my special line of surgery is concerned."

That meant that during her training she had received no definite instruction in the practical details of Nursing Operations on the Intestinal canal and Rectum.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)