

ARTICLE II.

The Duty of the Nurse to the Patient.

Sec. 1.—Except on substantial grounds a Nurse should never refuse a call to a sick person. She should never allow her personal inclination or her personal pleasure to interfere with this duty. It is equally binding upon her as upon a physician to go when summoned.

Sec. 2.—She should be deeply conscious of the grave responsibility of her position, and in no case should she be guilty of carelessness or neglect of any duty that skill, attention, or fidelity upon her part should bestow.

Sec. 3.—Every patient committed to the care of a Nurse should be treated with attention, steadiness, and humanity. Although proper firmness is necessary it should never be allowed to degenerate into severity, and reasonable indulgence should be granted to the caprices of the sick, more especially to those whose mental powers are affected. Too great intimacy between the patient and the Nurse is not to be encouraged, but the confidential intercourse to which Nurses are admitted should be used with the utmost discretion, and with the most scrupulous regard to fidelity and honour. The obligation of secrecy extends beyond the period of professional services; none of the privacies of personal and domestic life, no infirmity of disposition or flaw of character, observed during professional services, should ever be divulged by the Nurse unless circumstances arise which render such a course an imperative duty. The same rule holds good also with respect to the patient's ailments. Patients and their affairs should not be made a subject for conversation or discussion between Nurses; silence is even more binding upon the Nurse than upon the physician, as the opportunities of the former for knowing her patient's affairs are often greater than those of the latter.

Sec. 4.—A Nurse should not leave a patient on account of her own private affairs, or because her position is rendered disagreeable to her through the friends or the physician, unless she is assured that her presence is displeasing to the patient. When it is absolutely necessary for her to leave she should be willing to remain until some competent Nurse has been found to take her place.

Sec. 5.—Engagements, whether written or verbal, should always be regarded as legal contracts. The rescinding by the Nurse of such a contract is only justifiable in the face of unavoidable emergencies, or when the maintenance of her self-respect is clearly involved.

ARTICLE III.

The Duty of the Nurse to her School.

Sec. 1.—It is the duty of the Nurse to be loyal to the School from which she graduated. From the fact that the Nurse has remained long enough in the School to accept its certificate, she has tacitly admitted that she owes it her allegiance, and should avoid adverse criticism on its management. A Nurse can best do honour to her School by her personal conduct, and by the high character of her professional work.

Sec. 2.—She should always wear a complete uniform of the School when on duty, either in the Hospital or when in charge of a private case.

Sec. 3.—Every member of the Alumnae Association should feel it a duty to further the interests of the Society, not only by attendance at the regular meetings and by the payment of fees, but also by giving her hearty support to all work proposed by it, and by interesting the public in such work in all legitimate ways.

ARTICLE IV.

The Duty of Nurses to Each Other.

Sec. 1.—A Nurse should avoid adverse criticism of another Nurse, especially to doctors or patients, unless she knows the Nurse to be unreliable and is called upon for an expression of opinion when the question of sending such a Nurse to a patient is involved.

Sec. 2.—The unity and dignity of the Nursing profession demand that members of one School cultivate a courteous recognition of all other Schools in good standing, of their work, and of their graduates.

ARTICLE V.

The Duty of the Nurse to the Public.

Sec. 1.—It is the duty of the trained Nurse to take an active interest in the welfare of the community in which she lives, and to be on the alert whenever it lies in her power to assist in furthering public hygienic conditions. In the performance of her work she should always carry out strictly all measures adopted for the prevention of epidemic and infectious diseases, and as far as possible should induce those with whom she is brought in contact to follow her example. In the case of an epidemic, it is her duty to face the dangers and to continue her labours for the alleviation of the suffering, even at the jeopardy of her own life.

Sec. 2.—A Nurse should be willing to give a certain proportion of her time during the year to caring for the sick poor through the medium of District Nursing Associations.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)