

for women." Many speakers agreed; and yet these gentlemen see Hospital Nurses engaged in work which entails much hard physical work, in addition to more standing than is done by any dentist. But it never occurs to them to say that *Nursing* is too hard for women. The general feeling of the meeting was that women should enter the Church, the Law—indeed, any other profession, rather than encroach on the dentists' domain.

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Mr. A. S. MUMFORD, President of the Board of Managers of the Rochester City Hospital, U.S.A., has sent the following interesting account of the experiment of the non-payment system for pupil-Nurses to the *Trained Nurse* in relation to the changes recently made at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, to which we lately alluded:—

"About the year 1888 a communication was received by one of our Hospital ladies from the Illinois Training-school, asking the City Hospital management to unite with them in an effort to do away with the monthly payment of their pupil-Nurses, emphasizing the fact that those who receive diplomas from a training-school have at once an independent and honorable future opened to them. The proposition was discussed, a letter sent to Chicago to the effect that we would gladly unite with other training-schools in establishing such a reform when the time should come; but there the matter rested.

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On the 4th of August, 1890, the managers, after mature deliberation, decided to discontinue the payment by the month of salaries to pupil-Nurses and to furnish them with uniforms and 100 dols. at the time of their graduation.

No objection to this change was made by the school and there was no diminution in the number of applicants for admission.

Two years later, or in May of 1892, the 100 dols. payment was abolished, the uniforms alone being furnished, in the hope and firm conviction that as large a number and a better class of students would apply for admittance and the whole tone of the school be improved in consequence. At the same time, to quote from an editorial article in the *Review*, the official publication of our Hospital, it was 'the design of the managers to make the Training School at the City Hospital in the future, as it has been in the past, the best in the country. They would offer to its pupils the finest opportunities for acquiring practical knowledge, and in all the appliances of modern surgery and medicine they would keep abreast of the times and fit its pupils to take high positions in other Institutions and command ready employment among the sick and suffering. They would have the standard of theoretical and practical education so high that a diploma from the Rochester Training School should be a passport to positions of honor and usefulness anywhere in our country—an entrance-wedge to a cause that shall be constantly broadening.'

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When this change was effected the pupils remained in the School without objection and finished their

course in 1894. In the same year a class of eighteen was admitted and was an exceptionally fine class in character and intelligence. As vacancies occurred during the following year, however, it became difficult to secure pupils of the same quality, and applications for circulars began little by little to diminish, until it was practically impossible to supply the vacancies and maintain the standard of the School. The financial depression all over the country, which has affected every branch of industry and every profession, has been the main cause of this condition, and many applicants who had been accepted gave as a reason for abandoning the intention that they needed the salary that other schools afforded.

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The work of the Hospital was growing rapidly, and it became necessary to increase the original number of Nurses to fit the constantly-enlarging number of patients. Therefore, at a recent meeting of the directors, the existing circumstances were frankly considered, and it was deemed wise to return temporarily to the old plan of the monthly payments as the best way of remedying our present needs.

As the pioneer in this new departure, we are sorry to admit that it has not proved a continued success, but not one other school was willing to join us in the movement, and we were left alone to battle with it as best we could.

Our Hospital was never in better condition than it is at present, the Training School is to be organized and a Nurses' Home established, as we hope, at no very distant day, some money for it, the nucleus for a fund, having already been promised.

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Just at this time comes information of an experiment similar to our own about to be tried by the Johns Hopkins Training-school, which will extend the term of service to three years, adopt the eight-hour system and provide only uniforms and text-books for pupils.

We are well aware that their very beautiful Nurses' Home with its complete appointments, added to the rare opportunities for service in the Hospital, offer strong attractions, and we shall watch the experiment with intense interest. We hope that with an improvement in the general financial condition we may be able soon to resume the plan temporarily abandoned, with the coöperation of leading schools and such other favorable conditions that failure will be impossible."

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A NURSE at St. Bartholomew's Hospital was bathing a little girl of five in one of the big baths there. Several other small patients were waiting their time at the tub, so the Nurse, before she had quite completed the process of soaping and rubbing, turned on the waste. As the water neared the bottom of the bath, it gurgled and spluttered in the usual way. The little girl, to whom baths and tubbing were somewhat of a rarity, clung to the Nurse's arm as she watched the eddying whirlpool. "Oh, Nurse!" she pleaded, "don't—please don't—let me go down the sink holes."

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