

managers now laid down the rule that no nurse who registered elsewhere should be allowed to register at Bellevue. A test case was made, and an offending nurse being allowed to speak in her own behalf, read before the Board of Managers a paper dealing frankly with the whole question, showing the loss of work from which the nurses suffered, and protesting against the injustice of the restriction against registering elsewhere. In vain did she make the point that if a Bellevue nurse cared enough for her school to keep on paying it ten dollars yearly, although she might not in the year get two weeks' work from it, she ought not to be refused this privilege. The rule was re-affirmed, the subject closed, and things went on as before.

A few months ago a personal appeal made to the Vice-President of the Managers' Board by a graduate whose disinterestedness could not be doubted, as she is quite independent of the registry, resulted in a mass meeting held by the graduates to consider a communication made to them by the School Management. It began by reaffirming the impossibility of placing a telephone in the hospital, and offered an arrangement so inadequate that, if it were to be told, your correspondent would be suspected of ridiculing its authors. The nurses could not but answer that the plan offered would leave them no better off than they were before, and a set of resolutions was drawn up, expressing the earnest wish of the graduates that the Managers might place a telephone in the school if not in the hospital, and put in charge a competent nurse who would relieve the superintendent of the extra labour involved.

Bellevue nurses are loyal to the core, and in these meetings their loyalty and unwillingness to sever from the school were expressed over and over again, with a unanimity that was pathetic when one considered how little the school was doing for them. The resolutions were sent, and an answer received two weeks later, stating that it was "impractical" to place a telephone in the school, and reiterating the rule in regard to registering elsewhere. Then, only when it was evident that nothing was to be looked for in that direction did the idea of an independent registry take definite shape. The feeling was general that for years they had been patient, and that now every effort had been made that was compatible with self-respect. It was therefore decided to establish a registry outside of the school, and nearly eleven hundred dollars were subscribed within a week. An Association was formed, officers elected, a manager engaged, the support of medical men enlisted, and the new registry opened on April 1st.

The graduates of the New York Hospital have been going through an experience somewhat similar, though less acute. At the New York Hospital no registry fees have ever been charged, but, likewise, they have never had an efficient registry. Calls that came to the hospital were received by the clerk in the front office, and answered by him in a desultory fashion. There was no system or business method about it. The nurses have lately asked for changes, especially that a graduate nurse might be placed in charge. The governors did not see their way to granting the requests, and, moreover, enacted some new rules for the conduct of nurses going to private duty, which met with the displeasure of their graduates. For a time a split seemed impending, but has been for the present averted. Sooner or later, doubtless, the break will come.

As a matter of plain practical fact, it is perfectly

evident that registries for graduate nurses, who have finished their training and become self-dependent, self-supporting women, must necessarily tend to separate from training school management. The work of conducting them is in no sense a part of school work, but a distinct business quite outside. It was assumed by the schools in the first place, by way of setting the graduates on their feet. Now, as nurses increase in numbers and experience they will naturally take it into their own control. It would be pleasanter if training school managers would recognise this fact, and not consider natural developments in the light of pure perversity.

The Brooklyn Associated Registry, which has been spoken of before, is about to have a house presented to it by a lady in Brooklyn. Mrs. Willard, of the Metropolitan Club for Nurses, has lately had incorporated a United Aid Society for Nurses, on the plan of an insurance society. She has secured a good Board of Trustees, and plans for sick benefit, loans, endowed beds, and general relief of needy members.

Mrs. Willard is of the laity, and naturally some of her methods and ways of looking at things are not always such as would be endorsed by, for instance, the head of a training school. Still, there is no doubt she is energetic, and in the main her work is commendable. She does for the unorganised and stranger nurses what the Alumnae Associations do for their members. Nurses coming to town from foreign shores or from distant cities find refuge in the Metropolitan Club, where much is done to make their lives pleasanter and to help them. The club maintains a registry, reading rooms, and rooms for social relaxation. Within the last year it has been affiliated with the State federation of women's clubs.

Nurses of all kinds and qualities of training are admitted as members, and also those who register at low rates—ten and twelve dollars a week. All seems to go well with them, and certainly if any criticism is made it should be directed against the schools which send out the untrained or partially trained nurse, not against her personally, nor against the Samaritan who cares for her.

A newly-formed Association lately started in New York City, bearing the name of the Trained Nurses' Protective Association of the State of New York, has afforded opportunity for a lively skirmish. Its purposes and course of action illustrate well some of the disadvantages of living in a republic. Its inception was due to the efforts of a Swedish masseuse living in the city, who is principal of a school for teaching massage. It seems that she claims to have money promised her by some wealthy patrons to establish free beds for sick nurses in New York City, and that this money is promised conditionally on the formation of a society which shall undertake its management. Her plans include, then, a small hospital, wherein these beds shall be located, and to which she proposes to attach the school of massage. She now aims at restricting the practice of massage to doctors and trained nurses, and projects a Bill to be passed through the State Legislature, having, as she claims, a "friend" at Albany, who has promised to get it through, and "influence" in New York to see that it goes. Finding that nurses generally were not enough interested in massage to care about it much one way or another, she adds to her plan by introducing some "protective"

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