

Our Foreign Letter.

PROGRESS IN CANADA.



THE graduating exercises at the Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, took place on Friday evening, October 15th,

in the large theatre at the General Hospital, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Over five hundred ladies and gentlemen were present to witness the interesting ceremony of presenting the certificates and badges to the twenty-nine nurses who had successfully completed their course.

An interesting musical programme was carried out under the direction of the Chairman of the Hospital Board of Trust, Mr. Walter S. Lee. The sixteenth annual report was read by Miss Agnes Snively, Lady Superintendent, in which she said 540 applications had been received for admission into the school this year, 31 of these being accepted and enrolled as pupils. There are at present four graduate nurses, 54 pupil nurses, and seven probationers in the school, and a class of 29 nurses graduated on Friday evening. The Nurses' Home, originally built to accommodate 52 nurses, now contains 59, while the remaining six nurses, who total 65 in all, are scattered over the hospital. A strong plea was made for increased accommodation, as a still larger number of nurses is required in order to meet the increasing demands upon the School.

Interesting addresses by Drs. Graham, Fotheringham, McPhedran, and Powell followed, in which allusion was made to the great changes in both medicine and surgery, and the excellent work done by the Training School during the past few years, and the great necessity of increased facilities and accommodation in order that the training and education of the nurses should be such as would continue to fit them to co-operate with the doctor in the field of suffering, and enable this, the pioneer school of the Dominion, to keep to the front. Dr. Powell concluded his address by stating that he would give 25 dollars as a nucleus towards a new nurses' home.

A medical staff inspired with such liberal views as to the just recognition of the important part played by nurses in medical science, must gain for themselves the admiration and gratitude of every probationer in the school, and their attitude is sure to produce the most conscientious devotion to duty on the part of the nurses privileged to work with such men; indeed, it may be said that this desirable result is the key-note of the fine discipline which exists in the Toronto General Hospital.

The following nurses composed the graduating class for 1897:—Miss Edith Hargrave, Sherbrooke, Que.; Miss Amy C. Dickson, Toronto; Miss Ella Maxwell, Toronto; Miss Mary Morton, Ayr; Miss Frances Sharpe, Toronto; Miss Minnie Christie, Toronto; Miss Hattie Reising, Elmira; Miss Lizzie L. Drysdale, Lanark; Miss Alice M. Taylor, Perth; Miss Helen Taylor, Vittoria; Miss Jean. A. Neilson, Ayr; Miss Alma Brown, Watford; Miss Maude Broddy, Erin; Miss L. Maude Davis, Gananoque; Miss Bena

Henderson, Milton; Miss Annie M. Halbhaus, Georgetown; Miss Jeannette H. Neilson, Toronto; Miss Elizabeth Morrison, Alliston; Miss Clara Beltz, London; Miss Margaret McMillan, Toronto; Miss Belle Peters, Fergus; Miss Isabel Craig, Fergus; Miss Ethel Jeffrey, Toronto; Miss Celestia Breckon, Drillia; Miss Helen Fralick, Picton; Miss Minnie Allen, Severn Bridge; Miss Ida Beam, Cheapside; Miss Alice Walkington, Thornbury; Miss Agnes McNinch, Napanee.

During the past year, the certificated nurses of this school have received the following appointments:—Miss Alice Taylor, Lady Superintendent, General Hospital, Kingston, Ont.; Miss Isabel Turner, Lady Superintendent, Blackfoot General Hospital, N.W.T.; Miss Augusta Carmen, Lady Superintendent, Fairview Sanitarium, Minneapolis, Minn.; Miss Alice J. Scott, Lady Superintendent, Bellevue House, Toronto, Canada; Miss Loss E. Sewrey, Lady Superintendent, Medical and Surgical Institute, Quincy, Ill.; Miss Bell Gregory, Superintendent of Nurses, Erie, Penn. (Hamot Hospital); Miss Frances Sharpe, Head Nurse, General Hospital, Toronto; Miss Alice Stewart, Head Nurse, General Hospital, Toronto; Miss Emily Chilman, Head Nurse, General Hospital, Toronto; Miss Belle Craig, Head Nurse, General Hospital, Galt, Ont.; Miss Mary Stewart, Head Nurse, Sanitarium, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Lizzie Stitzel, Matron, Larkside Hospital, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mary Easton, Head Nurse, Asylum, Toronto; Miss Mary McLelland Office, Head Nurse, Oakland, California.

Among those present on this interesting occasion was Miss Alice French (Octave Thanet) of Davenport, Iowa, who is in Toronto owing to the illness of a dear young brother, suffering from typhoid fever, a patient in one of the private wards of the General Hospital. Miss French is well known to the readers of many of the leading magazines in America, France and Germany, while her books "Stories of a Western Town," "Knitters in the Sun," "The Missionary Sheriff," and other popular and well written volumes of short stories, are not only welcome in homes on this side of the Atlantic, but have been translated into several other languages as well.

Miss French was so impressed by the need of more comfortable and commodious quarters for the nurses, as stated in the report, that she most generously offered to give one of her delightful "talks" in some pleasant hall or salon, at an early date, in order to assist in raising the necessary funds. That this will be a great literary treat, those familiar with her writings are convinced, but not so firmly as are those who have met this talented and gracious lady.

Miss French has also most generously donated a complete set of her books to the nurses' library.

A very pleasant reception was held and refreshments were served in the Nurses' Home at the conclusion of the exercises. The evening was most enjoyable, and congratulations were showered upon the successful candidates, and upon Miss Snively, the Superintendent, for the creditable work done by the training school during the past year.

Miss Agnes Snively, as our readers know, is the hon. member for the Dominion of Canada on the Matrons' Council, and is a lady inspired with the most enthusiastic devotion to her profession, and is herself an example to her pupils of all that a nurse and superintendent should be. We warmly congratulate her upon the well deserved recognition of her work. It reflects credit on her colleagues.

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