

certainly must find some cause for encouragement along educational lines. Our report for 1897 tells us that already sixteen schools have adopted the three years' course. Fifty-two schools now use text books, have a regular system of class teaching and course of lectures given by medical men. The report also states that with three exceptions final examinations, conducted by an Examining Board consisting of medical men, are held in all of our representative schools.

Nurses' registries, associated alumnae registries and alumnae associations are also multiplying, while our National Alumnae Association has completed the first year of its history.

THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION.

The work before this convention is eminently practical. We expect to become enlightened regarding that very important factor in every training school—"The Superintendent." What the ideal superintendent ought to be, and how this ideal may be attained; also, in the same connection, how other people may be influenced so as to allow the superintendent liberty and independence to attain this ideal.

We acknowledge with regret that nurses are not always loyal to each other, but we hope to have presented for our consideration some suggestions regarding a suitable code of ethics, which shall serve as a standard for nurses, and as the best means of inculcating a proper professional spirit among our ranks.

We are also looking forward with pleasant anticipations, in the hope that those who have had large experience may be ready to aid us in solving such weighty problems as those which relate to diet and cleanliness, and lastly we hope to carry away with us some valuable practical hints as to the best method of attaining a measure of uniformity in the practical parts of our work.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

And now another year of work is opening before us—a year of larger possibilities and broader outlook than has yet been ours.

We are in a position to comprehend in a measure the magnitude of the work we have undertaken, and frequently obtain glimpses of the possibilities which the future may disclose.

It remains for us to conceive an ideal and to erect a standard, and, having done this, to be true to our ideal and to each other. Or, as St. Paul puts it, "That ye all speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment."

The future history of the nursing profession is being shaped by the workers of to-day; and this, I take it, brings us to consider the question of individual responsibility. "What a man thinks he is," we are told, and why? "The thought becomes the word, the word the deed, the deed the habit, the habit the character; the character eternal being of the soul." Emerson says, "We shall one day see that the most private is the most public energy, that quality atones for quantity, and grandeur of character acts in the dark and succours them who never saw it."

"The individual who wakes up to the consciousness of having been created for progress and perfection, looks with new eyes on himself and on the world in which he lives."

"The noblest influence on earth is that exerted on

character, and this power is granted to us, to inspire with disinterested principles, to bring about improvements which may spread through a nation, through the world."

After Miss Dock, Secretary of the Association, had read the minutes of the last meeting, the Treasurer, Miss Drown, Boston, Mass., presented her report, which was adopted.

It was decided to hold the next Convention in the second week of February, 1899, at Chicago. This will be a popular city for the purpose.

Progress at Guy's.

AMONGST the numerous nursing reforms at Guy's, those dealing with the private nursing staff are of the most importance, both to the women who enter for training and to the general public. By the new arrangements, probationers will be given a complete three years' training in the wards of the hospital before being admitted on the private staff, so that for the future only certificated nurses will be sent to private cases. This is just to all concerned—the nurses obtaining a thorough training, the public, efficient nurses. Such an arrangement will, we have no doubt, greatly enhance the estimation in which the services of Guy's nurses will be held for the future.

Asylum Attendants.

THE Women's Industrial Council have, for some time, been interesting themselves in the question of the work and education of Asylum Attendants, and have made an exhaustive inquiry into their hours of work and system of education, and it is interesting to note that, amongst other questions, which this Council have addressed to the would-be members of London's County Council, we find the following:—

4. In view of the fact that the mentally sick require even more skilful nursing than the physically sick, will you insist upon a thorough training in the theory and practice of their profession of all nurses and attendants in Metropolitan asylums?

5. Will you vote for the reduction of the present excessive hours on duty of nurses and attendants in asylums?

Asylum attendants have evidently *real* friends in the Women's Industrial Council. They have elicited the fact that most asylum attendants are on duty fourteen hours a day, or eighty-four hours per week, and we are glad to find that they are making this fact public and intend to agitate for reform. It is to be hoped that the Council of the Asylum Workers' Association will join hands with the Industrial Council. More humane methods will soon prevail if they do. The Medico-Psychological Society could and *should* also give a helping hand.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)