

## The Coming of the Male Nurse.

DURING the last decade, half-a-dozen institutions have been organized in London, for providing the public with male nurses, but, so far as we know, there is not one which concerns itself with the important question of their education. Miss Greenhough Smith, the late matron of the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, is to read a paper on the subject at the forthcoming Conference on Nursing, in London, it will, no doubt, arouse much interest.

FROM America come most encouraging reports of the progress made by men as trained nurses, and several leading hospitals in the States have now schools for male nurses attached, and organized on the same efficient lines as those open to the training of women, and superintended by women.

MORE than usual interest was attached to the graduating exercises of the Bellevue Hospital Training School for Male Nurses in New York, which were held lately at the school, No. 431, East Twenty-sixth Street. In addition to the pleasing ceremonies attending the giving and receiving of diplomas for merit and proficiency by twenty-nine graduates, the occasion also served as a farewell to nine graduates, who have volunteered their services as nurses on the hospital-ship *Solace*, and have been accepted. A large number of the friends and relatives of the students were present at the exercises, which were followed by music and dancing. Visitors, in accordance with custom, were taken over the building by the pupils, and admired the perfect system and well-ordered surroundings of the daily life of the occupants of the school. The dormitories and corridors and the reception rooms were brightened with blooms and foliage, while in the decorations generally, the National colours were largely conspicuous.

Dr. G. B. Fisher, the chairman of the Board of Managers, presided, supported by Mrs. Ada Willard, the Superintendent of the School.

### THE MANAGERS' REPORT.

The Rev. Mr. Young opened the exercises with prayer, and the annual report of the Board of Managers was then read, as follows:

"The training school was opened for the reception of pupil nurses, December, 17th, 1888. Since then it has graduated eight classes, 1891-'98, 162 graduates in all, including the class that received their degree this year (1898). Five medical wards in the hospital were first taken charge of by the school. It now has the entire male department of Bellevue Hospital, except the Sturgis Pavilion, comprising eight medical and twelve surgical wards, the prison ward, alcoholic ward, erysipelas pavilion and insane department. The present

graduating class has continued the good work done by its predecessors, and even more so, as nine of their number have patriotically offered their services to the Government, and have enlisted as nurses on the United States hospital ship *Solace*.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Ada S. Willard, the operation of the school has been a record of excellent service, and a consequent constant improvement in the comfort of the patients and the condition of the wards. Lectures and recitations were delivered with practical demonstrations by Drs. Quimby, Painter, Lusk, and Mr. Fielding. The Board of Managers has to deplore the great loss of Dr. W. T. Lusk, who had rendered the school material service by giving it his personal attention, the benefit of his great experience, and whose courtesy and good advice are sadly missed. The registry of the graduating nurses has been maintained by them, and only those of good standing are allowed to make use of it. The managers desire to express their gratitude to the Commissioner of Public Charities, to the superintendent and deputy superintendent of Bellevue Hospital and its officials, for the kindness and attention extended by them to the school; also for the medical services of Drs. Gardner and Nelson, and, above all, to express to Mrs. Willard their appreciation of her services as superintendent.

The graduating class then received their diplomas from Dr. Fowler.

### ADDRESS OF ADMONITION.

The address of admonition and advice to the successful students was delivered by Dr. Cyrus J. Strong, assistant visiting physician to Bellevue Hospital. In the course of his remarks he said:

"No one knows better than I the hard work you have done for the last two years. Your work has been extremely difficult and often unpleasant, and that you have persevered, and finished your two years' course, shows a determination to carry on your work for the rest of your life, and if you persevere in your work with the same spirit as you have done while you were here, success must certainly come to you. Coming into a hospital like this, where the patients belong mostly to the middle and poor classes, your work has in many ways been difficult. The cases which you have cared for have been for the most part people unaccustomed to the attention you have given to them, and probably in many instances your efforts may have seemed to be unappreciated. But, believe me, nobody has thought more kindly of your services than these poor patients, and they will always remember those services, though you may think them forgotten.

I know from experience that no emergencies have arisen in the hospital that you have not been ready to meet. During the typhoid epidemic five years ago one of the nurses of this school was taken down and died, yet despite his death not one of the nurses thought of the danger he was facing, or attempted to escape from the duty that was put upon him. The same spirit which animated those men is characteristic of yourselves. That spirit of devotion to duty has been manifested in the present National crisis. Several of you have volunteered your services on the hospital ship *Solace*, and I know that you can be depended upon to exhibit the same attention to duty, even at personal sacrifice, as other men have shown whom we have had here."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)