

Wood Wool Co., and express their disapprobation of this method of doing business.

It would be interesting to know how this Company obtain the names and addresses of the nurses to whom they address this circular. They advertise largely in the official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association, but we shall nevertheless hope to see a remonstrance from the Editorial Committee of that publication, in its next issue, concerning this very undesirable and unprofessional procedure.

WE have this week learned of the safe arrival of Misses Skerman, Burtwell, Alison, and Hutchinson, at the Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, and we wish them happiness and success in their new sphere of work.

WE learn that the constant breach of contract upon the part of nurses who have undertaken three years' service at the Strangers' Hospital, has at last moved the Committee of that institution to enforce their contract, and that these nurses have been called upon to refund to the hospital the passage-money expended by the Committee, and which amounts to a considerable sum. We must own to entire sympathy with the Committee, as in the majority of cases, marriage has been the reason which has induced the nurses to commit this breach of contract. It is somewhat undignified for the happy husbands to have to buy off their wives, and it is to be hoped that the lesson will be efficacious in relation to marriage vows.

How encouraging it is to contemplate the progress in the status of nurses, and consequently in the progress of nursing, taking place in the spacious Western Hemisphere! Whenever one is inclined to feel hopeless concerning the narrow and personal attitude assumed by the majority of persons born and bred up in this circumscribed little island, one inclines towards the Great West, and one meets straight between the eyes—a reflection of its Light. This apropos, especially in relation to the first graduation of nurses from the Brooklyn Homœopathic Hospital Training School. Under the said three years' course the exercises were held in the Church building adjoining the hospital, and every seat was taken long before the function begun. Here, on a platform, with palms and flowers, beautifully decorated, were met together members of the Committee of which a woman is Chairman, the medical and nursing staffs all combined to do honour to the new graduates, and to congratulate them upon their success.

An interesting feature of the ceremony was the presentation to Miss Ella M. Hayton, the valedictorian of the class, of the O. S. Ritch prize for superior

excellence in the course of studies and nursing. The prize was a gold badge in the shape of a five pointed star. The points represented the five senses. Enamelled on the points were the letters: "B. H. H. T. S."—Brooklyn Homœopathic Hospital Training School. The prize was presented by Dr. O. S. Ritch of the hospital staff. The graduates were the Misses Anne Denning, Mae Marshall, Kathryn Vogelsang, Henry, Ill.; Juliette Arden and Ella M. Hayton, Manhattan; Maria E. Megan, St. John, N. B., and Anna Hedges, Waverly, N. Y.

THE opening address of the evening was made by Mr. Norman S. Dike. Mr. Dike referred to the extended course of instruction, which the outgoing nurses had received.

The Rev. Cortland Myers declared that the recent war had meant great things for the nurses, and there was a brilliant future ahead of them. It had thrown open the doors for the largest sphere for them. "No occupation," said Mr. Myers, addressing the nurses, "is so blessed as yours. There are in store for you magnificent opportunities. Others had to fight for an entrance in the fields that are thrown open to you in the new territory. The highest art is in the helping and aiding of humanity. One element which in my mind is the largest element for success as a nurse is sacrifice. There is something in it that strikes at the centre of all that is living on earth. More is dependent on it than any other law of life. You cannot get away from the elements of God's law. My advice is to find it and then live by it."

Mr. MYERS was followed by Dr. Simmons, the chief of the staff, who presented the young women with their diplomas of graduation. Mrs. Camden C. Dike, the chairman of the board of control of the hospital, was next introduced. She made a short address and presented the graduates with badges. The valedictory which was delivered by Miss Ella M. Hayton, referred to the great advances which had been made in the healing art, and in the training of Nurses in recent years. Formerly the nurse having no special training, did nothing more than give medicine as directed by the doctor, whereas in these latter days, she had become an important factor in the case, with responsibilities only less than those of the doctor. After several songs and the presentation of flowers to the graduates, the proceedings were brought to a close.

Would not our English Nurses value their "bits of parchment" more if they were presented with some ceremony and generous interest upon the parts of the Committee and Medical Staff than they do at present? To judge from some dirty and crumpled specimens of Certificates of Training, which have come under our notice of late, we think something is necessary to make the average nurse value her official credentials.

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