

service sixteen were dropped, some for cause, some were not found equal to the duties of the second year, and one, after being in the school for some time, left and engaged in private nursing, calling herself a Bellevue graduate. For the next class thirty-seven were accepted, but already ten have been found unsuitable.

Mr. James Stillman, Treasurer, then presented his report, and a letter of regret from Mayor Van Wyck, at his inability to be present, was read.

The chief function of the evening then took place, and Mrs. William Preston Griffith, President of the Board of Managers, presented the diplomas to the graduating class, all of the graduates, with the exception of four, being present.

The pretty ceremony of distribution being ended, the address of the evening was given by Dr. Samuel Alexander.

THE ADDRESS.

It is an honor that you have conferred upon me in granting to me the privilege of making this address, and I thank you for it. This place is usually filled by one of the senior members of the medical board of the hospital, and I assure you that you make me feel very old to-night. But a man is only as old as he feels, and I still prefer to feel young. If I had my choice as to my place in this hospital, I would emphasize my evident lack of gray hairs by selecting the children's ward. It has been the custom in these addresses to praise the hospital and give advice. I don't intend to do any of the latter, but I shall most certainly do the former.

Bellevue Hospital founded the first training school for nurses in the country, and when it thus founded this school it did more for good than it could possibly have foreseen. The high standard and the magnificent record of this school have well deserved for it its signal success, and those who founded it deserve the highest praise. To them, too, are indebted the nurses who have been qualified to do good in the world, from the training they received here. For this quarter of a century of noble endeavour, I thank you nurses who have contributed to it, in the name of the Board of Managers. I thank the head nurse and all under her.

The trained nursing of the sick is generally looked upon by the public as a matter of course. They take it indifferently, and little appreciate what it means. The value and extent of trained nursing are generally much overlooked. If this were not so, Bellevue would not to-day need so many friends for her welfare as she does now.

In our war with Spain last summer, however, the value of trained nursing was sharply brought home to the people. Our sick soldiers would have been in a much sorrier plight than they were if it had not been for the nurses. These women did a great good, and they cannot receive too many thanks. Just as an instance of the good of trained nursing, I remember the day the Army transport *Seneca* came into port here, and how the weak, almost lifeless soldiers were carried down the gangplank, through the narrow aisle between waiting friends. I never saw men who so little resembled normally healthy human beings. Their misery was pitiful and pathetic, even to those who must look on such things every day. Some of the poor fellows were brought to Bellevue, and it would have done you good to see how quickly it helped them. In a day they were looking, and feeling brighter and better, and don't forget it was mainly due to the tender

care of the trained nurses who watched over them. I am sincere and in earnest when I say that you can't give your money to a better object for the honor of the flag and the glory of God than when you give it to Bellevue Hospital. Let me add that Bellevue was not founded for the purpose of making money, and you can rest assured that every cent contributed to it will go to active doing of good.

And now for those who are graduating here to-night. Did you ever study the ideal professional man in fiction? He is generally a most remarkable product. In particular is the ideal surgeon in fiction a creation of genius. The picturing is generally so false that he could do nothing but harm to his patient. It is a wonder that the patient ever survives. The only reason he ever does is because he is a fictional patient. The portrayal of the ideal nurse is equally adequate and truthful. Glory Quayle, as portrayed by Hall Caine, would not have passed even the stage of probation. She was far from being a trained nurse. She had not one of the qualities essential to a good nurse. I don't like to see such pictures put before the public. Hall Caine said she was very human, loving, sympathetic, and all that. That's all she was. She had no knowledge at all. I believe in a nurse's being human, but she must be efficient, too. I cannot help thinking of the story of the good Samaritan in this connection. When the Samaritan left the wounded man at the inn he plumped him down on the floor and said, "There he is; take care of him until I return." Those were the innkeeper's instructions. They could hardly be called minute and exhaustive. It is often so with the directions to modern nurses who are placed in the same position as the innkeeper was. I've often wondered what he did, and have thought that his was a sorry plight. Let me depart from my promise, and give you one piece of advice. Be absolutely sure about your instructions. The responsibility should be put where it belongs. If you've got your instructions, and you've carefully and conscientiously followed them out, then the responsibility will be put on the physician—where it belongs.

Success in this work depends upon the hardest kind of application. The trouble with most of us is that we want to go ahead, round out and crystallize too early. Don't try to get through too soon. Keep at it, and always look for new ways of increasing your power for well-doing. You are working for a great science and art, and you must not look for results too soon. Make your profession your first love, your first interest, and continually strive to perfect yourself in it. Be surgically clean, be prompt, considerate, and look to all the other necessary qualities. If you don't you will not succeed."

Trusting I have not trespassed too much on your space,

I am, dear Madam,
Yours most cordially,
A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.

A Nation's Gratitude.

THE American Senate has passed a resolution thanking Miss Helen Gould for her donations in aid of the comfort of the soldiers, and her other patriotic acts during the war with Spain. Miss Gould is awarded a gold medal in recognition of her public spirit.

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