

**How to Prepare Nurses for the Duties of Alumnæ.\****(Continued from page 297.)***DISCUSSION.**

MISS BREEZE,  
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IF the individual and collective work of its Alumnæ is important to the growth and development of the school as well as to the graduates and the profession, we must feel it doubly important that the pupils should be prepared for these duties as carefully as they are taught nursing. From the outset pupils can be instructed to work intelligently, that even the smallest part of their work has its proper relation to the whole, and must be done well. They must slowly learn to observe minutely and discriminate carefully, and at the same time acquire all those womanly traits indispensable to a good nurse. One of the pleasantest things about training school life is to watch the gradual unfolding of good and fine qualities which were hardly suggested when the pupils entered the school.

A plan of marking pupils at the end of each school year upon this practical work, which includes deportment both on and off duty, and giving these marks to each nurse with her examination marks, has seemed to stimulate good conduct as well as good work. Each class can be encouraged to have a pride in itself as well as the school, that it may aim to be better than any former class, and in this way raise the standard. As a part of the class work the last year in training, the pupils should learn what the public has a right to expect of them as professional women; they should be taught their duty to themselves, to other nurses, to their school, and to the profession.

The Illinois Training School also has an organized class club, managed entirely by the class, as part of the third year work. The subjects for papers and discussions are upon the various departments of public hygiene and upon literary topics. Most of the lectures during the last year were given by graduates who are at work in different branches of nursing, each one talking of her particular line of work. Visiting Nurse, Dispensary Nurse, Emergency Nurse, Hospital Matron, Private Duty—and the Superintendent gives a course of lectures upon Training School Work and Administration. As in the Pennsylvania Hospital, this arrangement was made to familiarize pupils with the methods employed in Alumnæ and other public work, and to broaden their views of nursing. If every

\* Prepared for the Annual Convention of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools.

Superintendent would talk to the out-going class about the Alumnæ Association, give each member a copy of the constitution and explain to them the duty of becoming working members, I believe more earnest societies would exist. This has been done by our Superintendent for years, and I think the Alumnæ Association of the Illinois Training School for Nurses is to-day a proof that her labours have not been in vain. As members of our own and of the National Association, we say we want to elevate the standard of nursing education, and promote the honour, usefulness, and other interests of the nursing profession. Therefore, pupils should be taught that in joining the Alumnæ Association they assume responsibilities, that the Constitution is not a high sounding but meaningless thing, and that when an occasion arises to perform a duty, it must be discharged with tact, patience and diplomacy, as well as with honesty, courage, and conviction, and without personal prejudice; that each member must feel it her duty to exert every influence for the election of those members for offices who are best fitted for the work, and then support their efforts for improvement. Alumnæ work will not prosper unless undertaken with enthusiasm.

Finally, each Superintendent can, by her advice and influence, help to keep the Alumnæ professional and make it more progressive, so that old and new graduates will feel it both a pleasure and a profit to be members.

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The principles and outline suggested by Miss Walker are practical, comprehensive, and very satisfactorily open a safe pathway to excellent preparation for Alumnæ membership.

"Attempt to teach a child nothing, during its first decade, except to speak the truth and ride horse-back," said Sir Walter Scott, quaintly and tersely summing up the purpose of all educational training. Appreciation of the true dignity and responsibility of our work, with the strength and perfect poise of moral, mental, and physical powers, which enables one to cope successfully with the great tax a nurse's life must continually meet—this, in detail, seems the purport and object of Miss Walker's plan.

The class code of honour, and whatever tends to develop and stimulate excellence in practical or theoretical hospital work, a just pride in our profession, with a desire to keep well informed of the progress of nursing and its interests, should always receive the warm commendation and material support of Superintendents and Training School authorities. Such experience and training must surely give us for Alumnæ membership

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