

Nursing Department will make a point of attending the Nursing Conference and hearing what she has to say on this great international question.

PAPER No. 3, "The Organization of Trained Nurses Alumnae Associations," will be presented by Mrs. Hampton Robb, whose name is a household word in the nursing world of the United States and Canada, and indeed to nurses *who think*, all over the world. The organization of these Alumnae Associations provides for the maintenance of *esprit de corps*, and co-operation amongst the graduate nurses of recognised training schools, who associate themselves together for mutual help and sympathy, and if affiliated to the National Association of American Nurses, select their own delegates to represent them at the Annual Meeting of the National Association, and instruct them how to vote on questions before the meeting. Here we have the most just and representative method of professional government, and one which must be adopted in this country before we can hope to make any real professional progress.

COMPARE this system of professional enfranchisement with the method now in vogue in the Royal British Nurses Association, where the Hon. Medical Secretary, Mr. Fardon, draws up a list, quite irrespective of any system of just representation, placing usually on the list "safe" and "dependent" persons, largely Matrons of private nursing institutions and private nurses, whose bread and butter is dependent upon the "patronage" of medical men, *and omitting the names of every woman who has dared to express an independent opinion!* This futile list is submitted to a servile Executive, who, of course, pass it *en bloc*, and, thus arranged, the list is printed and sent out to the members for voting purposes, the scrutineers of replies being also nominated by the Hon. Officers at the annual meeting. It would be impossible to devise a more venal and dangerous system of "election."

PAPER 4, which comes under the heading of "Nursing Organizations," will be read by Miss Scovil, of Canada, in which she will deal with the work of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada, which is a branch of the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, adapted to Canadian needs. This paper may open out opportunities for discussing the training of district nurses, a question which needs ventilation in England, owing to the obsolete standard still accepted according to the Regulations of the Jubilee Institute in England, as apart from Scotland, and also the miserably insufficient salaries offered to district nurses apart from those arranged for the "Queen's nurses."

Nursing at Camp Wikoff, Montauk Point.*

By MRS. L. W. QUINTARD.

ABOUT August 1st I received an appointment from Washington to take charge of the nursing department at Camp Wikoff. I was to report for duty when Col. Forwood, who was in command of the Camp, should require the services of the nurses. A large number of nurses had been engaged, and were in readiness to respond to the call at short notice. That there should be no delay in answering the call when it came, fifteen or twenty nurses had been brought from their homes and boarded in New York, at the expense of the Red Cross Auxiliary No. 3. Waiting impatiently from day to day ready to start at an hour's notice, knowing that every day brought large numbers of men from the South needing care, the strain was almost unbearable, until at last I decided to find out why we were not sent for. After consulting Mrs. Winthrop Cowdin, who approved, and with this end in view I started August 14th for the Camp. Arriving at Montauk Station I was at first completely bewildered by the chaotic scene which confronted me; the confusion was frightful; no one attempted to answer questions, and if it had not been for Mr. Howard Townsend, Field Agent of the Red Cross at Montauk, who, fortunately, was at the station, my object would not have been accomplished. Mr. Townsend was most kind, said how anxious he was to have the nurses there, and that he would use all his influence to bring this about as soon as possible. He would take me to the General Hospital, where I could meet Col. Forwood, but he would not promise me a warm reception nor any great success, as Col. Forwood was thoroughly opposed to the idea of women nurses in camp. After a two miles' drive over the worst road I ever saw, we arrived at the Hospital, which at that time consisted of sixteen hospital tents, dispensary, office and frame kitchen. Carpenters were busy putting up more tents, and every one was working hard to get things into shape for the reception of the sick. In the tents were about three hundred patients, some of them very ill. Attempts had been made to make them comfortable, but the poor fellows were lying around in the clothes in which they had come from the South, and the unkempt appearance of the convalescents, the dirty mouths and general distressed look of the sick, bore sufficient evidence to the lack of intelligent care. Inquiring what the temperatures were, I was informed that *the* thermometer had broken some days ago, so they did not know. I thought it was not wise to investigate too closely

* Read before the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, 1899.

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