

of her Alumnae Association, with the clear understanding of all it stands for to herself as an individual, and as a member of the profession. Such a preparation will hasten by many years the standard and ideals we are striving for. But here the duty of the Superintendent as an official should cease. She should not hold office in the Alumnae Association of her School. The organization, development and work, of the Association should devolve entirely upon the graduates themselves, for only by doing the work, and struggling with the problems, will they develop and keep up their interest and enthusiasm. The Superintendent should always be ready with advice when it is sought, and should ever be ready to display her interest, but, I repeat, the work and the responsibility should rest with the nurses themselves.

The class feeling in the School should also be encouraged, and new members should be taken into their Alumnae Association, not as individuals, but as a class. This gives an additional interest, there will always be the class pride to be sustained, and each member in the year's class will feel that she is bound to keep up and do better work, and will be less liable to degenerate or to become careless of her professional reputation when she knows that this is of vital interest not only to herself, but also to a number of others personally known to her. Thus, the weak members may be strengthened, and a high standard maintained.

Naturally enough, the question may be asked by a graduate nurse who has not had the advantages of the special preparation mentioned above: "What is there in it for me if I join my School Alumnae Association?" Let me quote directly from the constitution of one of the oldest and largest Alumnae Associations in the United States.

The objects of said organization are:—

Section 1.—The union of graduates for mutual help and protection.

Section 2.—To advance the standing and best interest of trained nurses, to co-operate in sustaining the rules of the Directory, and to place the profession of nursing on the highest plane attainable.

Section 3.—To further the interests of the School by giving our hearty support to all efforts to make it the foremost among such institutions.

Section 4.—To promote social intercourse and good-fellowship among the graduates, to extend aid to those in trouble, and to establish a fund for the benefit of any sick among our members.

A Visiting Committee, consisting of one member from each class appointed by the President, shall visit sick members, ascertain their needs, and see that they are properly cared for. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to investigate charges brought against any member, and if they find such member guilty of conduct

unbecoming a nurse, they shall present the facts to the Society for action, but no member shall be recommended for expulsion until she has had notice and opportunity for a full hearing before the Executive Committee.

Surely, these purposes would seem sufficient to sustain any woman's enthusiasm and interest in her Alumnae Association, and by working for these she unconsciously will gain the broader and more unselfish life that comes to each woman who has ideals in her work, and does not regard it merely from a commercial standpoint. The president of Wellesley College said to the college students: "You do not go to college to earn your bread, not this only, but to make every mouthful of bread more nourishing, sweeter. It is to learn how to live, to make life, not a living. You may forget some of your Greek and Latin verbs, your geometry, history, but you need not forget your ideals, they may be yours always, or better than this, they may be realized. For the students of to-day must be a great body marching toward the solution of problems we have not yet solved. In you we have our meanings of the stars." How aptly may this be applied to trained nurses of to-day, in whose hands now rests this nursing work to be carried on to a higher plane, to which the eyes of the world may look up, not down; who must learn to work together in a common interest, with harmony, method, and in a spirit of self-sacrifice, strengthening the intelligent loyalty and efficient service of each member for her own Alumnae Association.

Thus far only the School Alumnae organization has been touched upon with its own home interests, problems and duties. But our charity, though it begins at home, must not end there, and the fact must not be lost sight of that our duties and interests should not, and cannot, stop there, for other problems of burning interest must be met and be dealt with, not as a school, but as a class—a profession. There are the questions of Directories, the care of small and speciality hospitals, a uniform curriculum, a code of ethics, annuity funds, magazines, and, perhaps, some day when we are more in line, legislation. These broader problems can only be solved by means of co-operation, which, naturally, takes the form of the National Association of Trained Nurses, in which membership can only be held through the School Alumnae, which stands guarantee for its own nurses, and to which each Alumnae Association sends its delegates in proportion to its size. And here, again, come into play the duty and responsibility of Superintendents of Training Schools, who, by virtue of their position, have a great deal of influence not only among their pupil nurses, but also among graduate nurses. Unless the Superintendents are united regarding the fundamental principles of

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