

the work, and are willing to take the initiative and combine their forces in working out the questions common to all, we cannot expect the nurses to unite and work with good success. All honour to the American Society of Superintendents for this unity in their work. I do not know of a Superintendent in America from the representative Schools who is not a member of the Society, while in addition, there is a large number of Visiting Members who do not qualify for active membership. And yet, with the possibility of so many conflicting interests, the fact remains that in all of their transactions, the utmost good feeling exists. Each of these organizations, the National Association of School Alumnae and the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, are essential to the development and success of the other, and, while working independently, both are still endeavouring, from different standpoints, to attain the same objects, and thus strengthen each others' efforts.

The future lies entirely in our hands. There may be associations of women for many causes, but none who may draw closer to the world's needs than that of the Trained Nurses' Association. It remains with ourselves that this shall be the most honoured among associations of women, one that the world will be proud to look up to and lean upon. Our inheritance is a rich one, and our privileges great, but we may not relegate our work to others to do for us if we would rise above reproach.

One founder of Sisterhoods, among the many, spoke with prophetic voice of things to come when he thus ordained for the Sisters of Mercy of St. Vincent de Paul. "They shall have no monasteries but the house of the sick, no cells but a hired room, no cloisters but the streets of the town and the wards of the hospital, no inclosure but obedience, and for convent bars only the fear of God. For a veil they shall have a holy and perfect modesty, and while they keep themselves from the infection of vice, they shall sow the seeds of virtue wherever they turn their steps." Many hundreds of years have passed since these words were first spoken, but they perfectly picture the ideals of the sisterhood of trained nurses at the close of the nineteenth century. What more beautiful inspiration need women have to join forces than that such ideals may become daily facts?

DISCUSSION.

OPENED BY MISS MARY AGNES SNIVELY,
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THE organization of Alumnae Associations in connection with Training Schools is a comparatively new movement, but, in an age such as this when the word "organization" means

"advancement," the wonder is that the nursing profession has been so slow to recognise its opportunity.

No word of mine is needed to convince this Congress of the power which lies within that word "organization." One has only to turn one's eyes toward the business, social, scientific, educational, philanthropic, or religious world in order to observe what has been accomplished through organized effort.

Take, for example, the Treaty of Geneva, represented by "The Red Cross Society," than which nothing more beneficent has been produced within the century. Less than fifty years have passed since it came into existence, and to-day forty governments are bound by its conditions, and distant nations clasp hands with the isles of the sea beneath its banner, and pledge themselves to carry out its humane provisions.

If we inquire how this came about, we find that the spirit of one man was aroused. This was the nucleus from which has sprung this mighty power which promises to expand in ever widening circles as long as the history of humanity is incomplete, and till sorrow, pain, and suffering cease to exist.

The general ideas which led to the formation of Alumnae Associations in connection with Training Schools, were those which are instrumental in the forming of societies everywhere. The greater strength which comes from union; the mutual help, protection, and inspiration which intercourse imparts; the increased facilities and incentives which organization gives for holding fast that which has been already attained, and of elevating or improving the standard of work, thereby adding to the dignity of the profession.

Such societies are particularly indispensable for a band of women educated and trained for a common work.

"To live in a society of equals tends in general to make one's spirits expand, and one's faculties work easily and actively.

"The common bulk of mankind do not possess extraordinary gifts or exceptional energy or ability, consequently, in order to make the best of themselves require encouragement and directly favouring circumstances. An individual, or a class, concentrating their efforts upon their own well-being exclusively, beget troubles for themselves and for others also."

As is well known, the tendency of nurses, after leaving the Training School, and entering upon active life, is to neglect each other, and devote themselves wholly to work. Little time is given to social duties, reading or study, with the inevitable result that the life which should have been increasingly expansive and benevolent, becomes narrow and self-centred.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)