

condition of the Nursing Profession will remain. Nurses, who have undergone three years' training in hospital, are expected to work shoulder to shoulder in private and other branches of nursing, with people who have had only one year's or even six months' training! This is not quite so much the case now, as it was three years ago, but this evil is still very serious. Until matrons and nurses unite to do what is just and right for the common good, they must suffer. One of the speakers has said that the rules of a hospital were calculated to narrow a nurse's mind. I think that during her three years' training, a nurse has quite enough to do to learn her profession; her mental growth has sufficient food. But, after that, nurses require the stimulus of union, which has been wisely met by American women; in England, we do little for our nurses after training them. Having once certificated a nurse, she is sent into the world, and has no further association with her school. I do feel that we might all unite to emulate the example of the Superintendents of American Nursing Schools, and effect professional organization by associating our certificated nurses. But nothing can be done until the Matrons set the example of unity to the nurses.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said: As the organization of the Nursing profession is a subject in which I have taken a very earnest interest for many years, I should like to say a few words on Mrs. Robb's paper. The most important point brought out by this paper is the fact that by their existing organizations of school *alumnæ*—*i.e.*, School Societies of Certificated Nurses—which have the power to send delegates from each School *Alumnæ* to a National Society of Trained Nurses, the professional enfranchisement of every trained nurse is secured. We know that the key notes throughout this Congress have been the great demand for organization, legislation, and enfranchisement for women. These American organizations give the nurses their vote professionally, and, whether they wish it or not, it places them in a position for effecting progress and raising the status of their profession. None of the ladies who have come from America have told us how these *Alumnæ* Associations were organized. The truth is that half a dozen able American Matrons consulted together and evolved the idea of a Society of Superintendents of Training Schools. They communicated with their fellow workers, and in a few years this society developed into a powerful professional body, and it was this Association of Matrons which took the initiative in forming a National Association of Nurses of the United States and Canada. The nurses of the United States and Canada owe a great debt of gratitude to their Superintendants, which they have warmly acknowledged. But what strikes us in this country, where we have been earnestly labouring to effect some degree of union amongst nurses, is the rapidity with which the American nurses grasped the benefit of co-operation and association, and the use they have already made of it. Miss Dock brought out the fact that it would not be good for Superintendents to foster too much the growth of these School *Alumnæ*, and that therefore they have been formed on lines which make the nurses themselves responsible for their management. The Superintendents have given the greatest help and warmest sympathy, but have not overpowered the nurses. They have done many things to encourage self-development and self-government. Could there be any just reason for opposition to forming these School

Alumnæ in England? Certainly not, and sooner or later they will be formed, but the difficulties to be overcome are very great. I may say that even now there are two schools in London which, although they have not definite *Alumnæ* Associations, do keep themselves in touch with the graduates of those schools, after they leave the service of the hospital, so that the nurses do not feel themselves quite alone when they go out into the world to undertake other work. But we all know that in the majority of cases, once a nurse has severed her connection with her school, being no longer responsible for her, her former colleagues trouble themselves no more about her. I hope for great results from this paper of Mrs. Robb's. I am personally deeply disappointed that she is not here herself, as well as her able substitute; she is so full of enthusiasm and strength and charity, that I am certain she would, before she had left this country, have been able to arouse much enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility amongst the Matrons, which would have resulted in wise development of professional organization amongst our nurses.

MISS LUCY WALKER, in replying for Mrs. Robb, said: I have had the pleasure of forming two *Alumnæ* Associations in two different hospitals in the United States, and this was not altogether an easy task. The nurses did not at once grasp the value of such organizations, and needed to be educated to the idea that they were really for their good. I found some difficulty in starting both these Associations, and in order to train the nurses to an intelligent idea of what they were, I began to instruct them from the day of their entrance into the hospital as probationers as to the value of these organizations, and in their professional responsibility to one another, and their profession at large. It is the duty of Superintendents to encourage pupil nurses to think for themselves, and thus to acquire the habit of bringing reason and judgment to bear upon their relations to life.

This closed the discussion on "The Organization of Trained Nurses' *Alumnæ* Associations."

The Colonial Nursing Association

THE Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association was held at Stafford House last Tuesday. Lord Loch presided, and Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting approves and confirms the annual report of the Colonial Nursing Association, and expresses its cordial appreciation of the manner in which the executive committee have given effect to the objects of the Association. It pledges itself to give its earnest support to the executive committee in their endeavour to raise the funds of the association to £5,000."

Mr. Chamberlain said the objects of the Association might be expressed in a sentence. They were to provide for our sick fellow-countrymen abroad the same kindly and skilful treatment they would have in case of illness at home, and forty nurses had been sent abroad for this purpose during the past year.

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