and observe the laws of cleanliness, order and obedience.

While you are obtaining the practical parts of your training at the Hospital in daytime, you are also receiving the theoretical part, two nights in the week at the School, from Doctors Quimby, Painter and Lusk, and are taught in lectures on anatomy, to learn the names of the different bones, muscles, etc., and their relation to each other; to become acquainted with the different organs and their functions, and to know the action of certain drugs on these organs; the different systems and the laws governing them; to analyse urine; to distinguish the different degrees of temperature; the kinds of pulse and respiration, and what they indicate; what to do in cases of emergency until the doctor comes; to arrest hæmorrhage; to administer poison antidotes; handle broken limbs, and apply temporary splints; to resuscitate the drowned; to make and apply different kinds of splints, extensions and bandages, and be ready at a moment's notice to carry out the directions of your superior.

The Head Nurse's position is a responsible one. He is held accountable for everything and everybody in the ward or wards over which he presides, for the training of the nurses under him, the property and clothing of patients until delivered to the proper official; in fact, all the general paraphernalia, drugs, etc., under his care. He has to keep a record of each patient's time and place of birth, age, residence, date of entry

and discharge, diagnosis and result.

Upon a patient entering the Hospital, he is expected first to ascertain, if possible, the physical condition of the patient, take his temperature, pulse and respiration, and, if favourable, remove all his clothing, give him a tepid bath and put the regulation hospital uniform on him. If unfavourable, he puts the patient to bed at once without the bath. In the meantime, the House Doctor has been notified of the patient's entry, name, temperature, pulse, respiration, condition and probable diagnosis, all of which has been done in less than ten minutes, and in many instances less than five.

As I have about used up the space allotted to me for this article, I shall be compelled to cut the other subjects short and treat of them at some future time.

Just prior to the close of the term, the senior nurses are given a course in Massage and Swedish movements. Then comes the final examination, which is a rigid one, both oral and You have to receive an average of seventy-five per cent. of marks to enable you to pass, which only about ten per cent. of the applicants succeed in doing.

Our work in private is somewhat different from

what it is in the Hospital. The patients are of a Routine work is out of the different class. question, you are thrown more upon your own resources, and are expected to decide quickly what course to pursue in many instances. the general rules hold good.

The training of the female nurse is similar to ours in every respect, as far as I know; never having tried the course, I can not say positively, but I think the difference is very slight.

As to the comparative capacity between the female and male nurses, I must—in due consideration, not only to her sex, but to her finer sense of feeling—give woman the honour due her. There are very few women, comparatively speaking, but what would make good nurses; while, on the other hand, there are but very few men who are capable of becoming nurses at all. Nevertheless, there is an increasing demand for male nurses.

The difference in salaries is considerable—the female receiving from twenty-five dollars a week and upwards, while the male nurse receives from thirty-five dollars a week and upwards as the

case may be.

Commencement day is long to be remembered. Our Superintendent spares neither time nor money in making it a joyful time for us all. The inside of the School building is decorated from top to bottom with potted plants and evergreens. Speeches are delivered by different members of the Board, in which our beloved Superintendent receives the eulogy she so much deserves. Diplomas are granted, and everybody starts in to have a good time. Your friends have been invited, good things to eat are in abundance, and dancing is the order of the night, up to twelve o'clock.

You must not think for one minute that the nurses on duty in the Hospital are forgotten, for what the Superintendents do not think of for their pleasure, the boys at the School do, and, as on all occasions of a similar nature, there is more or less mischief going on. Nobody is forgotten, and we are all like one happy family. Neither must you imagine that we have been cut loose from the guardian apron strings upon our being ushered into the sunlight of another and newer day, to drift whichsoever way we may; nor that the watchful care of our Superintendents have been removed, or their scrutinizing eyes turned aside because we are no longer under their immediate supervision. Wherever you go, they have your good at heart. It hurts them just as much, and, in many instances, more, when a nurse stumbles and falls. More especially so is this the case with Mrs. Willard, who, as a woman, is more tender of feeling, kinder of heart. woman womanly. One among many.

previous page next page