

**Professional Review.****"THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING."\***

*The American Journal of Nursing*, the organ of the Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses in the United States, is so important a publication that it merits a lengthy review. It is with unfeigned pleasure that the NURSING RECORD welcomes its arrival, and recognises in its pages, the principles, aspirations and ideals which have always been advocated by this journal. We no longer feel that we alone in the journalistic world are dealing with nursing matters from a professional point of view, and are striving to inculcate and voice professional ideals. We have now a powerful ally. The motives of the Associated Alumnae, in issuing their journal are noteworthy, and, indeed, are precisely those which influenced us when we undertook, seven years ago, to edit the NURSING RECORD. In her editorial remarks Miss S. F. Palmer, editor-in-chief, writes:—"The motives which led to the establishment of the *American Journal of Nursing* will be readily understood. For many years the profession has been indebted to the nursing journals already in the field for cordial co-operation in many lines—still, these journals have not been owned or controlled by nurses, and with the rapid strides that the profession is making in every direction journalism would seem to be a necessary part of the trend of nursing progress. The Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States in establishing an independent magazine is but following in the footsteps of all large organisations by having an organ of its own. Every large association whose members are widely scattered has during the year many communications to make which can best be made through a recognised official channel. On the other hand, this society, working on advanced ethical lines, standing for that which is most womanly and most progressive in nursing work, has much valuable information to impart to the public, as well as to the nursing profession at large."

Without doubt, if nurses are to have any professional freedom, they must have a journal in which they can discuss their professional affairs; edited, moreover, by a trained nurse, for no outsider can possibly adequately deal with professional questions, which demand, for their right understanding, a high degree of specialized knowledge. It is noticeable that to bring out this Journal once a month the editor in chief has secured the assistance of eleven expert matrons and nurses, who have undertaken to be responsible for different departments of the paper; and who, moreover, are giving their services gratuitously for the first year. Besides these, there is a Committee on Periodicals of seven well-known nurses, and an advisory staff of three medical men. The result is a journal which, in its first number has attained to a high degree of excellence, which will doubtless be maintained, and indeed increased as the staff settle down to their work.

We must mention briefly the principal contents of the first number of the *American Journal of Nursing*. The first article is an illustrated one by Miss Hibbard,

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the Superintending Sister of the *Maine*, whose personality, and charm of manner, won for her a warm place in the regard of her colleagues when she was in this country. The article is to be continued in subsequent numbers, and will be awaited with great interest. Next Miss Dock discusses "What we may expect from the Law," with special reference to State legislation. Her broad-minded philosophy is charmingly refreshing, while her views on this most important subject merit the consideration of all those who are interested in it. A biography, with illustration, of Miss Linda Richards, the first woman to enter a training school for nurses in the United States, and who is still actively engaged in nursing work, by one of her pupils, comes next, and then the special Departments of Nursing. "Practical Points on Private Nursing," in charge of Miss McIsaacs, containing articles on specialities in nursing by Miss Katherine de Witt, and visiting nursing by Miss Eliza J. Moore. The "Children's Department" in charge of Miss Louise C. Brent, with a valuable article on Infant Feeding by Dr. W. B. Thistle, the "Educational Department" in charge of Mrs. Hampton Robb, with a full account of the course of Hospital Economics at Teachers' College, New York. Then follows "Progressive Movements" in charge of Miss L. L. Drown, with an interesting and suggestive paper on Work for Nurses in Play Schools by Miss Mary Boyle O'Reilly, Secretary of St. Elizabeth's Guild, and on the Nurses' Settlement by Miss L. D. Wald. The department of "Prophylactics" is in charge of Miss Mary M. Riddle, and under this heading an article is begun by Dr. John H. McCollum, on the Relation of Bacteriology to Preventive Medicine. The Hospital and Training School items are in charge of Miss Linda Richards, and the Foreign Correspondence containing a survey of nursing activities in Canada, England, Denmark, Holland, and Germany, is in Miss Dock's able hands. The Editor's Miscellany contains some interesting letters and other items, and then follow announcements, book notices, and the editorial remarks. Last, but not least, are printed the minutes of the proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the Associated Alumnae of the United States, intensely interesting to all who are concerned in the question of nursing organisation. Reports were submitted at this Convention from the Executive Committee of the Associated Alumnae, the Committee on Arrangements, the Printing Committee, the Committee on Incorporation, the Committee for Condensing the Reports of the Local Alumnae Associations, the Committee on Ways and Means of Publishing a Magazine, the Educational Committee, the Committee on Affiliation with the National Council of Women, and the Committee on Division of Expenses, all of which were fully debated. Verily the *American Journal of Nursing* is a feast of fat things, and is to be commended to all who are in sympathy with nursing progress. The general production is excellent, the paper, printing and illustrations being first rate in quality. Curiously, the cover is very similar to that of the *Barts League News* in green and black.

We note with pleasure an appreciative reference to the work done by the Matrons' Council in this country, and to the formation of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses. It is stimulating to know that its efforts are noted and approved by our American colleagues.

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