

families where for economic reasons, they have been obliged to do without such assistance in times of illness" (page 5). Page 10 also repays perusal. Indeed, I may say that the whole booklet, decorated with a large red cross in the right hand corner, and the left bearing the inscription "*Short Course in Nursing—Evening Lectures — Class Work — Practical Nursing — Philadelphia Nurse Supply and Medical Dispensary—School for Nurses—office,*" etc., is rich in gems of thought. It should certainly make us, members of this Association of American Superintendents of Nurses, think; and act as far as we can. The medical profession will not help us. We may consider ourselves fortunate if the profession as a whole does not support it, either actively or tacitly. We must help ourselves. I think this association as a whole, and each member of it individually, owe it to their profession to try to suppress these bogus "Nurse Supplies," who do not supply nurses, and whose misdeeds we have to bear the reproach of before the public. We know that to the generality of people one "nurse" with a diploma—often, alas! without one!—is as good as another, even as one doctor's degree is as good as another. The medical profession has found it necessary to protect itself against bogus colleges and degrees by State registration and other means, and so shall we find it necessary. Mind, I do not say that such have no right to exist, or that the public have no right to employ them if they choose. But that to call themselves the "Philadelphia Nurse Supply," whereas they do *not*, and *cannot*, supply nurses, is dangerously misleading to the public, and possibly to the candidate. For to assure any woman an "honourable means of livelihood" as a nurse, at \$5 to \$7 per week (the figures given me by the vice-chairman), *we* know is assurance of barely a living wage. Taking into account time lost for rest, sickness, and waiting between cases, I do not think any of us here would consider it a living wage in a big city, where these sort of schemes generally flourish. I actually know of a young dressmaker, who announced to the lady she was sewing for that she could not sew for her again. She was going to give up dress-making, attend these lectures, and be a trained nurse, so that she could earn \$20 a week.

If you read page 4, you will see that "the record of their (trained nurses) good deeds can be read in the laughter of children, in the light of mothers' eyes, in the hearts of the sick to whom they have ministered, and we have good reason to believe that they are recorded in 'the annals of eternity.'" After ten years' practical experience, I should say that those who are so

credulous as to run to read these things, may oftentimes find themselves disappointed. I am not aware of the writer's private source of information regarding the "annals of eternity," but it seems to me good reasoning to suppose that any unfortunate candidate for these classes, so foolish as to suppose that she will secure entrance to Heaven, or to the profession of nursing, by the backdoor of the Philadelphia Nurse Supply Association, will find herself deceived.

Therefore it seems as if these misleading associations bore more hardly upon the aspiring candidate, than even upon us, of whose Heavenly future the writer of the circular is apparently assured, even although our present state (thanks to him and others like him) is sometimes a little dubious, or upon the public, who, after all, ultimately gets what it chooses to put up with.

I will not apologize for speaking at this length, for it seems right that this association should know how the demand for nurses for people of moderate means is being met in Philadelphia. The Visiting Nurses' Society could be made to cover a great deal more of this ground than it does at present, if it were moderately advertised, and well supported; but at present comparatively few people understand that they can secure the daily attendance of a properly trained nurse at 50c. a visit. And in this city of a million population, it seems as if there would be plenty of room for really good nurses who would work somewhat on the lines laid down in Miss Kimber's paper on this branch of nursing.

MRS. ROBB. The only way to distinguish between such graduates from bogus institutions and graduates from good training schools is to have Legalized Registration.

MRS. BARROWS was asked to say a few words. She dwelt on the importance of the remarks of Miss Banfield, the need of making the public understand the difference between the skilled nurse and the bogus one and the value of the hourly nursing by graduate nurses for families of small means.

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## Verse.

### THE NURSE-BEE.

AS APPROVED BY THE R.B.N.A.

I like to watch the little bee  
A-singin' and a-wingin'—  
I even like her some when she  
Gets mad an' goes to stingin'.  
There ain't no words set to her tune.  
Her honey-laden mansion  
Keeps her too busy, night and noon,  
To talk about "expansion."

—State Registrationist.

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