

But no doubt the chief subject that has largely held our interest during the two years past has been army nursing, and the various phases of the problem have been studied by many of us with keen interest. To-day the need for a better organization of the nursing forces on a modern basis in every country is being as plainly demonstrated in South Africa as it was in the late Spanish-American war, although, happily for the sufferers, not to the same painful extent as happened in the case of our own soldiers. But as was only natural, efforts to bring about a better state of affairs at once developed the opposition which is always encountered by work which is healthy and progressive. Fortunately the opposition comes from the outside and is purely commercial; it does not represent any high aims or definite principles; its leaders are not trained nurses, and the success of their projects would mean the complete subjection of trained nurses. We have, therefore, no common ground upon which any compromise can be effected. When trained nurses have demonstrated their inability to look after their own affairs, then and not till then can they permit themselves to be guided and governed by women, whose ruling motive must be a commercial one, as such women cannot appreciate the work to be done or the proper methods for performing it, as can trained nurses themselves.

The growth of our association is steady and encouraging. This year we add five more large schools to our membership and six small general schools will be admitted into associate membership as soon as certain changes in the constitution, which will be made at this meeting, have rendered the step legal. At this meeting also we shall be called upon to consider the question of enlarging our borders in order to admit, on the same footing as *alumnæ* associations, local associations, some of whose members have not had the opportunity of being connected with *alumnæ* (in case such associations do not exist in their schools), but who would bring into a local association the same standard as that required by our *alumnæ*s. Each *alumnæ* has received due notice of the amendment to come up at this meeting, so no doubt you are all conversant with the pros and cons of the question. It is desired that this point shall be settled before we proceed to the formation of state associations, which the various *alumnæ*s of New York purpose to take steps to do very shortly in their state. This will not be the first time the question of local and state associations has come before us for discussion. A large portion of our First Annual Report is made up of papers and discussions upon the subjects of state and local

associations. I would strongly recommend each member of this association to provide herself with a copy of the First Annual Report and read and consider carefully the points brought out at our first meeting; if this is done, I am sure the need for such associations will be better understood. At that same meeting a committee was appointed to report upon the formation of local associations. Last year no written report was submitted by that committee, but I should like to quote from the verbal report made by its chairman (Miss Nutting):—

“Not much has been accomplished this year, but there has been a good deal of thinking done. It seems that the time is coming for the forming of local associations, thus uniting those *alumnæ* associations which are eligible for representation in the national association, and which should include stray graduates of other schools who are in good standing in their own *alumnæ* associations. It would mean that all the associations and the graduates must be eligible to membership in the national association.” I cannot see how local associations could be formed on other lines. But it is evident that that would bar out a great many women who graduated years ago from schools that are not eligible to membership in this association, and yet there is no doubt of the great benefit it would be to these women to work with such local associations. Probably it is those nurses who would be most anxious to attend such meetings who would derive most benefit from them. I am aware from things that have come to my notice that these should be much more comprehensive than the original idea of the local association. The whole subject is something that has to be considered. No actual work has been done as yet. The question is, how inclusive shall they be? This is just the question which we trust our delegates have come prepared to answer and settle at this meeting. It is not one of my duties to instruct you, but I may at least ask you to remember that our object in associating is to advance the interests of the whole *nursing profession* and not merely those of any one association. After deciding upon the formation of local associations we trust steps may very soon be taken to formulate state associations, beginning in all probability with the state of New York.

As many of us know, the question of registration for trained nurses has been long in our minds, but we were also aware that to advocate legislation for nurses eight or ten years ago would have been to “put the cart before the horse.” At that time, no *esprit de corps* existed among the leaders in our schools. Nothing much in the way of systematic teaching was recognized;

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