

ment and general uplifting, so can this organization be the means of bringing together more every year that great body of women than whom there should be none more womanly. Through it, we will develop more kindly spirit, expressed in kindlier deeds one to another—the stronger among us, both schools and individuals, will hold out helping hands to the younger and weaker. Through our lives, expressed in our actions, we will be instrumental in wiping away the disgraceful sneer so long cast upon women, the charge that we never help each other but ever push down instead of pulling up.

There are great possibilities for us when we are all helping, not hindering; when we put aside narrow creeds and stand shoulder to shoulder ready to maintain the ideals we stand for; when by the establishment of scholarships and fellowships we are ready to aid those among us, who can, with such help, become bright lights shedding radiance for us all.

Out of this fraternal spirit must come an improved social condition due to our broader knowledge of each other—the closer touch into which we come; and the world which we meet socially as well as professionally will recognise nurses, not as machines, but as women, educated, earnest, refined, striving to do our full duty to our country, our neighbours and ourselves in that most honourable state of life into which we are called.

DISCUSSION.

The PRESIDENT: Miss Dock's paper opens up for discussion another interesting subject: "In What Ways the Educational Feature Would be Useful to Individual Members?"

Miss DAMER: The main point is the stimulus it has given to the smaller and newer associations leading them to undertake a course of lectures and to further study that they would not otherwise attempt. I think the association has been beneficial in that way.

Miss MOORE, Illinois Training School: Because of the good report brought back by our delegate last year the interest in our *alumnæ* has increased.

Miss KEITH: I think one of the great advantages we have from this association in New York is the course of lectures we have had this winter, which of course was an outcome of this association.

Miss GANNON: From an educational standpoint the interest in our *alumnæ* has almost doubled.

Miss PLUMMER said in an educational way the association has been very beneficial.

Miss KELLY said one advantage was that it made the nurses of more importance in the world, whereas in a case of an individual nurse she was of little importance.

Miss DUNCAN: It seems to me that the question flavours a little of selfishness. Might we not ask, "What benefit would I be to the association?" I think we must all acknowledge that in a united effort more can be accomplished than individually.

Miss CARR said it is of great benefit to individual nurses to be members, and the fact of being members reflects credit on nurses all over the country.

Miss DOCK said that discouragement and doubt as to the benefit it would be marked the first stage of development, as it was impossible to make a person understand until they got into things and began working, and that when they do something and receive benefit then they understand they will be able to do something for others, but before that they don't know what to do.

Miss MCKEE: It is great benefit from a social standpoint, as the members can meet each other and find pleasure in associating in that way.

Miss EASTMAN: I think a great advantage is to come in contact with others in the profession.

Miss MCISAAC said that from a standpoint of the schools it promotes a higher idea of the graduate nurses in the minds of the pupil nurses.

Miss RHODES asked, "Where would the progress of the private duty nurse be without any *alumnæ* association?"

Miss HACKETT said it would be beneficial in this way that graduate nurses going back to the schools would be paid much attention and treated with distinction, whereas, to go as an ordinary nurse no attention would be paid to them.

Miss THORNTON said that no great movement could ever be hoped for without an organized body.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any other members who would like to discuss the benefits or disadvantages, and of the latter I think there must be some as one of our *alumnæ* associations has withdrawn from the Associated *Alumnæ* membership. I would like to hear somebody speak on the disadvantages.

Miss DOCK claims one of the disadvantages is that *alumnæ* membership, pure and simple, in a national association is too rigid, as shown by two important facts. One is that a small-voting majority of the active members of an *alumnæ* may keep all the graduates of that school out of the national association—which is manifestly irrational. Another is that when state organizations are formed there will have to be some local bodies which nurses from other states can join.

Miss NUTTING then said that only the rudimentary steps for local organizations had been taken, and that further steps were to be considered during this meeting.

Miss PENNY said one of the great advantages was to keep in touch with the profession, especially when not in active duty.

Sisters and Soldiers.

THE visit paid by Lord Gerard, President, and Lady Gerard, to the Providence Free Hospital at St. Helen's, so soon after his home-coming from South Africa, gave great pleasure to the Sisters, as a mark of appreciation on their part of the work of the Foundress of the Hospital, the late Mother-General (Fanny Margaret Taylor), who, during her experience as a volunteer nurse in the Crimean War, learnt to value and admire the sterling qualities of the British soldier. It has also afforded the Sisters keen satisfaction to place at the disposal of the War Office a certain number of beds for soldiers invalided home from the front.

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