

right people are in accordance with our ethical and professional standards. If we sincerely and truly believe that it is best for nurses to be controlled all their lives long by an order or by the management of a training school, then we will believe those to be the right people who are working along this line. If, on the contrary, we believe that there is no more reason why nurses should be so bound and controlled than there is why medical men should remain under the direction of their colleges, but that rather they should receive the best possible teaching and then stand by one another in the best interests of their work, helping each other to work out the further problems of their wider world education, and learning to advance in innumerable directions of social usefulness, then we will think those are the right people whose ideas we find congenial, and stimulating."

"In England one may take one's choice, for both are to be found there; and this is the disunity, this is the strife in English nursing affairs. The Matrons' Council believes in, and advocates, the things which American nurses believe in and advocate. It stands for the clearing of the ground around the Matron or superintendent of nurses; that she should, in her own province, hold her own right and full share of authority; that the discipline and management of the nurses should be hers, not some man's prerogative—and this, be it ever remembered, is the principle laid down by Florence Nightingale herself in her classical notes on Hospital Management. The Matrons' Council stands for the abolition of private duty by under-graduates, of all wrong systems the one against which American superintendents have most set their faces, and which is now in America fast disappearing. It stands, further, for the abolition of what may be termed the 'sweating' of nurses, viz: that system which keeps graduates doing private duty in the control of the hospital, paying them wages and taking their earnings. Be it here, again, ever borne in mind that the mere financial aspect of this system is not its worst feature, but is, rather, of absolutely the least importance. The nurses are paid good wages and, like the German 'Sisters' they do not need to take thought for the morrow."

"The real grievance, the real injury done these women in all kindness by good and loving friends and managers, is that they are prevented from developing; they are forbidden to have a life of their own; they are not allowed that sweetest of all pleasures, the pleasure of giving oneself voluntarily and freely to the work of one's choice. Their conscientious managers are like the old-fashioned fathers we have all met, whose daughters, tenderly cherished, never had a cent, of spending money and had to ask permission every time they went to town. Then, as a natural result of this system comes the Pension Fund."

"The Matrons' Council stands for the organization and self-government of the graduate nurse and for her ascent into varied positions of influence and dignity. It wants to see her on training school and hospital boards, helping to direct the education of future generations of nurses. It is not insular and exclusive. It has honorary members representing eight countries, and follows with interest the nursing movements of all lands. It is cosmopolitan and believes in affiliating

nurses with other progressive women who are busy with practical reforms. At home it has over one hundred full members, all matrons holding responsible positions. These things considered, the criticism quoted above against the Matrons' Council seem to be of small account. Ideas outvalue size, and the principle of freedom is worth more than numbers.

"There is in England a class of nurses who take no part or side with either one or the other of the two main divisions of the nursing world: neutrals, going their own way, doing their work, holding with neither, a steady going and excellent set of women. Yet it seems to me it would be right for them to come out and declare themselves. [So we think—ED.] More of them would be found on the progressive than on the conservative side, and why should they refuse the aid of their moral support to those ideas with which they are most in sympathy."

These words of wisdom will be found in Miss Dock's "Short Papers on Nursing Subjects," and can be obtained from Messrs. Putman, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, price 2s., and well worth it.

The Royal Red Cross.

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross on Miss A. Ward, Matron, and Miss K. Neville, Nursing Sister, West African Frontier Force, in recognition of their services in nursing the sick and wounded in connection with the recent operations in Ashanti.

Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister in Peking, has presented Miss Saville and Miss Chapin, lady missionaries, with the Royal Red Cross, conferred by the King for the conspicuous services rendered by them during the siege of the Legations.

Miss Saville is the daughter of an English clergyman. She received her medical education at the London School of Medicine for Women, and holds the M.D. degree of Brussels. Her friends at this school, says Mrs. Garrett-Anderson, M.D., have been much rejoiced to know of the services she rendered during the terrible weeks of the siege, and of her escape from imminent peril. We believe Miss Chapin is an American lady.

Pro Patria.

The death of Sister Ethel Beatrice Lloyd, Army Nursing Service Reserve, of enteric fever in South Africa, has added another to the list of lives laid down in the country's service by our devoted nurses. To die on duty is so good an end that, whilst sympathizing with those who are left to mourn, one cannot commiserate the brave spirits thus released from the weariness of the flesh.

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