

The American Nursing World.

THE SPECIAL COURSE IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS.

The committee appointed from the Superintendents' Society on the special course for nurses at Teachers' College are issuing the following circular as an appeal for funds to carry on, on an assured basis, this most important and far-reaching piece of work. So far the Superintendents' Society has really shouldered the brunt of the work, and also the expense in subscribing funds and in the voluntary offering of time and trouble, the different nurse lecturers having had only their travelling expenses paid, while Miss Alline, also a member of the Superintendents' Society, has practically, through altruistic enthusiasm and belief in the course, made a free gift of her time and work to the cause, as the financial return to her was so insignificant, compared with what any nurse can earn in other ways, as to be practically counted out of a fair consideration of the question.

Every new piece of work must be demonstrated to the public before the public will take an interest in it, and for this demonstration those who believe in the work must be willing to spend money. Now the public may fairly be asked to take a share of interest, and it is hoped that those nurses who are in a position to reach people of means who are desirous of aiding the cause of education will do all in their power to bring the Hospital Course at Teachers' College before them. Single leaflets may be obtained from Miss Walker, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

CIRCULAR.

"The announcement for 1901-1902 of the Special Course in Hospital Economics at the Teacher's College, Columbia University, is now ready for circulation, and may be obtained on application to Miss Anna D. Alline, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

"Six students are completing the course for the year 1900-1901, and it is hoped that at least as large a class will be formed for the coming year. Should any nurse of exceptional ability come under your notice, we trust you will place the advantages of the course before her.

"It is important that application should be made *early* in the summer.

"The expenses of the past year were met in part by contributions from many individual superintendents of training schools. Since then no improvement has taken place in the financial condition, and for the coming year there is no present prospect of any other contributions. The work done by the students at the college is all included in the regular courses with the exception of the course on Hospital Economics. For this branch a trained nurse as instructor is required, and it is to meet the expenses of providing this instructor that money is urgently needed.

"The college is prepared to help by giving two hundred dollars yearly in return for a short course on Home Nursing, to be given to other students by the instructor. The lecturers on Hospital Economics also aid, by giving their services free, only receiving the amount of the travelling expenses incurred.

"For this coming year we need seven hundred and fifty dollars, and in order to retain the services of a thoroughly qualified trained nurse as professor at the head of this department at least fifteen hundred dollars yearly should be forthcoming.

"*Fifty thousand dollars will endow a chair of Hospital Economics, and give these (now special) students a recognized position in the college.*

"*Five hundred dollars, if offered as a scholarship to a selected student, will pay the total expenses of her term at the college.*

"We most earnestly ask for the helpful sympathy of all who are interested in the management of hospitals and the care of the sick. This fuller and broader preparation for their future work must undoubtedly prove of value to those who undertake the management of a hospital or of a training-school for nurses. In the past many women of ability have failed, or have gained their experience sadly and bitterly, at the expense of the hospitals in which they held appointments, owing to the fact that their training had fitted them to care for the sick with devotion and skill, but had in no way prepared them to be either teachers or superintendents. They entered upon the work entirely inexperienced, and quite unfitted to manage the business department of an institution, or to prepare for their life-work those who had entrusted themselves to their care.

"Any contributions for our present needs, be they small or large, or assistance towards the endowment of a chair of Hospital Economics, will be most gratefully received. It is hoped that many friends of hospitals will aid these efforts of the superintendents of to-day to secure for their successors an education which must prove to be of great benefit to them and all who are connected with any hospitals in which they may hold positions of responsibility."

We have received the following report of the last year's class:—

"The class of Hospital Economics, numbering six members, completed the year's work at Teachers' College, Columbia University, June 1st. The rank of the class as a whole was very good throughout the entire list of final examinations, and in the courses of biology and bacteriology they were the palm-bearers in a class of some thirty students. The instructor has asked that we send him twenty like them next year. We are pleased to make this report, not only in commendation of the class in question, but also as encouragement to those who expect to take up the work this year. Examinations are not looked forward to, as a rule, with much pleasure, and as a matter of fact have been a constant, but as they have proven, a groundless anxiety back of all their efforts.

"While expecting a full report of the work later, and therefore not wishing to elaborate any particular points now, we still think it may not be amiss to express in a general way our thanks to the many friends who have shown great interest and given most kind assistance to the class in their many excursions

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