

which has for its objects: To promote the interests of male and female trained nurses, in all matters affecting their work as a class, to establish a system of registration for trained nurses, to afford opportunities for discussing subjects bearing on the work of nursing, and to initiate and control schemes that will afford to nurses a means of providing an allowance during incapacity for work, caused by illness, accident, age and other necessitous circumstances.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session, the nurses were guests of honour at an informal reception given by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union. The function took place in the handsome club-room of the Women's Union Building, and the guests were received by the President, Mrs. George W. Townsend, and the following officers of the Union: Mrs. James B. Parke, Mrs. L. M. Kenyon, Mrs. W. Bowen Moore, Miss Alynne Moore, Mrs. Charles R. Walker, Mrs. Charles E. Selkirk, Dr. Adele Gleason, Mrs. A. D. Gail, Mrs. T. M. Moore, Mrs. Etta Ware Hill, and Mrs. A. R. Clarkson. The beauty of the reception-room was enhanced by numerous clusters of gladioli, white asters, and salvia, tastefully arranged in various parts of the room.

THURSDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER.

MORNING SESSION.

Interest was unabated in the Congress on Thursday, and an audience of five hundred nurses listened with intense interest to the various papers and discussions.

Miss L. L. Dock of New York, secretary of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, spoke on "What are we doing with the Three Years' Course for Pupil Nurses." The success of the three-year course is absolute, she said. The hospital service is greatly benefited and the steadiness and balance of the training school are improved. Instead of lessening the number of good applicants, it improves the quality, as it acts as a sort of automatic selector, weeding out the weaker element. The grading of the course is not yet complete, but more attention is being paid to the housekeeping and dietetic basis of nursing and of ward work. Cooking and domestic science are given more attention. There is a tendency to teach nurses that it is their duty to preserve the public health, and to understand the relation of health and disease to morals.

A serious danger in the three-year course is the tendency to reintroduce undergraduate private duty into the third year. As one looks over the whole set of reports from all the training schools, one is quite alarmed at the recurrence. Undergraduate private duty means, for the pupil, interruption and loss of those opportunities which hospital training gives her and which she cannot always regain after

graduation. In the majority of cases, it is an injustice to the patient and to graduate nurses, who are unable to compete in prices with the pupil, the latter having board and living supplied her. If undergraduates are to be sent out to private service on the ground of educational benefit to the pupil, the patient should pay no money whatever, either to nurse or school. This would place the system on the educational basis where it belongs, and would remove the suspicion of commercialism.

In the discussion which followed, the principal aim of all organized nurses was very conspicuous, namely, that of securing legislation requiring State Registration of trained nurses. This has already been accomplished at the Cape of Good Hope, and is now being considered by the Parliament of New Zealand. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick discussed Miss Dock's paper, and emphatically opposed the custom of sending out pupil nurses for private duty. She considered it fraudulent. She also advocated preliminary training for nurses—and stated what had been done at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and the London Hospital in this direction. Mrs. Fenwick favoured the longer course, instituted at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and hoped in time to see provision made in central nursing colleges for such courses of instruction. She favoured registration of nurses as the best means of avoiding imposition by pupil nurses. Miss Banfield of Philadelphia, said that statistics of a Philadelphia hospital show that between 2,000 and 3,000 dollars had been brought in by the undergraduates as remuneration for private service, and that the money had been turned over to the support of the institution. She said that pupils should not be required to contribute to the support of a hospital, that they earned their education by their hard labour done in the hospital wards.

Miss Isla Stewart, Superintendent of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Training School, of London, said that the difference between England and America, was that America, after having done a thing, immediately looks about for a way to improve upon it, but that England sits down and contemplates what she has done. So it is that English nurses are not content with a three-year course, but are anxious for the opportunity to remain in the hospital during the fourth year. This additional year of training in the hospital makes a woman of the nurse. During the first three years she is under absolute control; in the fourth year she has to use her own judgment, thereby developing and deepening her character. Those who begin the study at twenty-one or twenty-three years of age, the latter being the most useful, are twenty-seven years old before they leave the hospital. Miss C. J. Wood suggested that some way be developed whereby pupil-nurses

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