

Douglass Hospital Training School, an intellectual coloured woman, described the curriculum and the work of the institution with which she is connected. She was graduated in 1899, and has been matron of the hospital for seven months.

FRIDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER.
MORNING SESSION.

It was a source of regret to the members of the International Congress of Nurses that meetings of the organization could not well be entirely postponed on Thursday, thus honouring the memory of the late President. But owing to the presence of so many foreign delegates, whose plans had been made so far ahead, the meetings were held as arranged, yet closing in time to permit delegates to attend the memorial services in the city.

There were no visible and outward signs of the sorrow that was so universally felt until Friday, when it took the form of a suggestion that an organization be perfected in America similar to the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada, and that it be named the William McKinley Order of Nurses, and that the nation's support be given to such an organization instead of contributing a fund for a mammoth marble shaft to the martyred President's memory.

The subject of the papers given at the morning session was district nursing. Miss Amy Hughes, of the Trained Nurses Club of England, gave a Historical Outline of the Origin, Growth, and Present Status of District Nursing in England."

District nursing was first definitely formulated in Liverpool in 1859, a trained nurse being sent to work in a small district. Such good results were obtained that its promoter, Mr. Rathbone, was encouraged to extend the work, and within four years the whole of Liverpool was divided into eighteen districts, each supplied with a trained nurse. The success of the system of district nursing in Liverpool stimulated the work in other places, and in several large towns nurses were provided for the sick poor.

It remained, however, for Queen Victoria, by the institution of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, to consolidate the work of district nursing, and to raise it from the sphere of individual effort to become a great national institution. Queen Victoria realized the great benefits arising from this work, which had been quietly making its way among the humblest of her subjects. With that keen insight into the merits of a debated question, which was one of her attributes, she decided to devote the bulk of the subscription raised by the women of England as a gift to Her Majesty on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth year of her reign, some £70,000 or 350,000 dollars, to this comparatively unknown object rather than to bestow it on an already established charity.

Two of the fundamental principles of the institute are, first, that the nurses shall not be almsgivers; their work is nursing and nursing only, though they are encouraged to bring deserving cases to the proper local authorities, and in every way thus to secure necessary sick comforts for their patients; second, that the nurses shall never interfere with the religious views of their patients.

"The influence of a good nurse remains after her nursing services are ended," said the speaker. "It is the opportunities given by district nursing that make it so important and so responsible. Nurses who grasp the inner meaning of their work have few limits to their powers of usefulness. They nurse the homes as well as the patients. They give valuable object-lessons in the practical details of nursing, simple sick cookery, cleanliness, etc., thus helping their fellow women to be less helpless and hopeless when sickness invades the home.

"They can advocate self-restraint, thrift, and household economics; they can give valuable advice in the dieting and managing of infants and young children, so helping to strengthen the sinews of the nation. 'As the child is, so is the man,' and the simple hygiene of proper feeding taught in language 'and understood by the people,' means the future welfare of its sons."

Mrs. von Wagner, who has been a sanitary inspector in Yonkers for four years, spoke on the tenement-house inspection and the need of women to serve as inspectors. They are more conscientious and thorough in their work than are men in the same position, and are better qualified to care for the sick poor both by wise suggestions, practical help, and sympathy.

"While not every city," she said, "has a tenement-house problem, every city has a housing problem, and it is the duty of the board of health to see that the homes of the working classes are made at least healthful. Organizations of public-spirited citizens should be formed, which, after acquainting themselves with local conditions, would revise building and sanitary code, and see to the enforcement of laws.

"The average tenement-house has deprived people of light, air and privacy; dark bedrooms, with sometimes worse than useless air-shaft openings into a common hall, a hall which usually is not ventilated and very dark, unventilated toilets opening into it. The damp cellar air, combined with odours from cooking and toilets, which greets one on entering those halls is overpowering."

The speaker described the terrible conditions exist in these tenements. Poor little children locked up in basements while both parents work in the mill; the household of the habitual drinking women, where there were neglected vermin-covered children, six in one bed, poorly covered and looking like little skeletons; the consumptive's room, where bedding, floor and furniture are covered with expectoration, where the children play on the floor and wife and baby share the same bed; where out of fear a conta-

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