

wrong in reference to the great body of American women engaged in professional and industrial work—far from being superficial they are deeply in earnest, and so seriously have they set themselves to work on the question of nursing the sick that in one decade they have cast a net-work of organization away over the whole profession from New York to San Francisco, East and West, and from Chicago to New Orleans, North and South, and gathered in a shoal of graduates from every State in the Union. This splendid result has been accomplished by the graduate nurses of each good training school forming themselves into Alumnae Associations or, as we express it, Leagues of certificated nurses, and by delegation co-operating together to form the National Nurses' Association of the United States and Canada. These graduates' unions are based on the same principles—yet differ slightly in the work they undertake—as found convenient to the members of each training school.

The Bellevue Hospital, in New York—"mother of training schools" as it is called in America—prints the following little history of the Society with the Constitution:

"At the annual reception of the school, January 7th, 1889, a number of the graduates met to talk over the advisability of forming a society, with the object of promoting good fellowship between its members, the establishment of an Annuity Fund; and the providing of friendly and pecuniary assistance in sickness. The promoters of this movement received so much encouragement, that a meeting was called on February 9th to decide on the constitution, etc., which meeting was well attended, and on April 2nd of the same year the society was organized with Miss A. S. Brennan as President, Miss M. R. Boggs and Miss Alice Warren as Vice-Presidents, and Miss Post as Secretary.

At this meeting, after thorough discussion, article by article, the constitution was adopted. (The Constitution as it now stands has been amended twice. The first change was to do away with the insurance, and the second with assessments in case of illness of a member.)

At the end of the first year ('89) we had forty-eight members; the second, sixty-four; the third, seventy-eight, and the fourth, one hundred and ten.

The work accomplished by the Society is as follows: first, a pavilion of four rooms, built by Miss Josephine Lazarus, and by her donated to the Managers of the Training School, for the use of their graduates when ill. Second, a sick fund has been formed by the donation of \$5,000 by Mrs. Morris K. Jesup, in memory of her sister,

Mrs. Theo. Cuyler, to be called the Mary De Witt Cuyler Fund, and into this fund is paid annually \$4.00 by each member.

The Annuity Fund is still in the distance, but the officers of the Society are so much encouraged by the progress made so far, that they hope before long something may be done towards developing the idea.

The Annual Lunch and Re-union is held in January, and has always proved a most enjoyable and happy occasion.

The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 426, East 26th Street, at 3.30 p.m., except July, August, and September. Refreshments are served after the business is over, and graduates who are not members are made welcome. If a special meeting is called notice will be sent to each member."

In enumerating its possessions, the Alumnae names a "cherry gavel" from Mount Vernon, the Home of the national hero, George Washington.

The objects of the Bellevue Alumnae are given as follows:—

#### ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

"The object of this Association shall be the promotion of fellowship between its members, the establishment of an annuity fund, and the provision of friendly and pecuniary assistance in times of sickness."

The Alumnae of the Illinois Training School for Nurses at Chicago was formed in 1891, and adopted the following objects:—

#### ARTICLE I.—OBJECTS.

"The objects of the said organisation are:—

Sec. 1. The union of graduates for mutual help and protection.

Sec. 2.—To advance the standing and best interests of Trained Nurses, to co-operate in sustaining the Rules of the Directors, and to place the profession of nursing on the highest plain attainable.

Sec. 3. To further the interests of the Illinois Training School by giving our hearty support to all efforts to make it the foremost among such institutions.

Sec. 4. To promote social intercourse and good fellowship among the graduates, to extend aid to those in trouble, and to establish a fund for the benefit of any sick among the members."

It will thus be seen that sympathy—mutual help and professional spirit inspired these unions of American Nurses—and such being the case, they were bound to go ahead and flourish. They did: In 1897 delegates of several of these leagues came together at Baltimore, and adopted a Constitution for the Associated Alumnae, which has affiliated, according to the last report, thirty-one training school leagues.

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