

a large part in shaping the probationers, and many a graduate owes her ideal of what a nurse should be to the "staff" who helped her over many difficult places in those new and bewildering first days in hospital, the kind, thoughtful, helpful woman, who, while rigorous in her demands that work should be well, thoroughly, and punctually performed, tempered justice with mercy, and remembered the time when the troubles and difficulties of the new pro. were her own.

And the probationers,—what of their influence? It must always be remembered that it is from the new pro. that the public, and may be the press also, obtain their views of hospitals. It is she who fills sheets of paper with her opinions of the hospital which are scattered right and left amongst her friends and relations, and though she may be "only the new pro." in the hospital, her dictum, crude and immature as it often is, when read by loving eyes, and treasured by loving hands, has a force which the wise will estimate as one to be reckoned with.

But, after all, the weight of influence is undoubtedly in the hands of the graduate nurse, who, working on her own responsibility, represents her profession to the public at large, and brings it either into good or evil repute in the eyes of the world.

So far we have spoken only of the individual influence of the nurse. If it is great in this rela-

tion, how much greater must it be if she joins hands with others. There are many things which she desires for the better organization of her profession, for the welfare of the sick, evils which need to be remedied, weak points which need strengthening. These come directly under her notice; she can put her finger on the weak spot, but alone she is powerless to effect reforms. She must join hand in hand with others if she would become a force in public affairs, and this done, none will be able to resist her legitimate demands. She must associate herself also not only with members of her own calling, but with other women workers in various professions, remembering that the interests of one are the interests of all and that together they stand or fall.

No one can have attended the Nursing Congress in America, or read the nursing papers of various European countries without realising that in Europe, as in the New World also, the views of the NURSING RECORD and the *American Journal of Nursing*, which are identical in their aims, are being read and assimilated, or without recognizing how largely these two journals are influencing the future. We have nothing but congratulations to express on the progress made during the last year in the conscientious conviction of nurses on matters of deep professional moment, and our last words for 1901 are words of hope for the future.

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