

lowed in the near future by every member of the Council.

Miss Sophia Cartwright, Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society, was present at the International Nurses' Congress, as its Delegate, and presented a Report of the special features of the Society.

The other members of the Matrons' Council who attended the Congress were Miss Maud Banfield, Superintendent of Nurses, Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, and Miss Lucy Walker, Superintendent of Nurses, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, so that the Matrons' Council was strongly represented by six Hon. Members resident in Australia, Canada, and the United States, and six Members.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

It is satisfactory evidence of the healthy condition of the Council that we close the year with a balance in hand of £3 7s. 10d., although, with the exception of gifts to the Buffalo Delegate Fund, we have had no special donations this year.

In connection with the Buffalo Delegate Fund, the Council desires to record its thanks to Mrs. Charles McLaren, Mrs. Plummer, Miss Minks, Mrs. Storer, Mrs. Myers, Mr. G. F. Wates, Mr. Herbert Lister, Rev. C. R. Tyrwhitt, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Walter Spencer, and a donor who desires to be anonymous, for their kind contributions to the Fund. Including the Delegate Fund, our total receipts for the year, as shown by the Balance-Sheet, have been £80 16s. 0½d., and our total expenditure, £77 8s. 2½d.

## Nursing Education.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.\*

BY RICHARD C. CABOT, M.D.,

*Physician to Out Patients, Massachusetts General Hospital, Assistant in Clinical Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston.*

My chief interest in nursing depends upon the hope that in the course of time it can be made a liberal profession.

Out of the trade of the barber and the apothecary we are, I think, developing something worthy the name of a liberal profession—I mean the profession of the physician—a profession which can be, and not infrequently is, practised in a liberal and enlightened spirit. The evolution has been a gradual one, and is yet far from complete, but we are on the right track. We are requiring (in all our best medical schools) a college degree or its equivalent before entering on medical train-

ing, and the demands of the community for an all-round man, who has regard for the souls as well as for the bodies of his patients, are slowly creating a supply.

The better type of modern physician tries to go to the bottom of his cases without regard to the money return. He tries to see what conditions in the life of the individual or of the community have resulted in the disorder which the case of illness before him represents. Of what deeper disorder in the habits of men, or in the organisation of society, is the case a symptom? How can such ills be prevented in the future?

It is the increasing prevalence among physicians of this sort of disinterested delving into the deeper and wider implications of the sufferings of humanity that gives promise of an increasing liberality or seriousness of spirit in the medical profession.

A similar change—a similar evolution—is discernible by the eye of faith in the spirit and method of nursing. We have firmly established the "trained nurse" as a part of the army that fights disease in peace as well as in war, and I trust we shall never hear it said again that the field hospital and "the front" is no place for a trained nurse.

But what constitutes the nurse's training? For what do we train the nurses employed in our great hospitals? We train them in the great majority of cases to be good hospital nurses, to fill efficiently a place in the machinery of a great hospital. If we fit them for any work outside the hospital, it is not for a work that needs keen intelligence, resourcefulness in emergencies, judgment and tact in difficult situations, abounding sympathy for all sorts and conditions of men, capacity for original observation. Our training is purely a technical one; it teaches a trade instead of preparing for a profession.

The reform of training schools for nurses cannot be an abrupt and easy one. The difficulties in our way are many and subtle. But there is every reason why we should keep clearly before our minds what we lack, and what we should try for. Accordingly I shall try to set down certain improvements in the methods of educating nurses (not merely training them), which I regard as sure to come, providing nursing is to be a profession fit for the best educated and most gifted women in the country, and not merely a trade by which any one of fair intelligence can support herself.

I.—NURSES SHOULD PAY FOR THEIR TRAINING AND BE TAUGHT BY PAID INSTRUCTORS.

The advantages of this arrangement are:—

(a) It would tend to bring into the profession a better educated class of women.

(b) It would put the students in a position to demand, instead of humbly requesting, a thorough

\* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

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