

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In that institution every student, whether it be architecture, engineering, mining or chemistry that he is preparing for, must take courses in English, political economy, and history. This is thought necessary in order to provide a broad and solid basis of general education, on which the superstructure of technical knowledge may firmly rest.

If one needs history in order to be a good bridge builder or chemist, does not one need it more to be a good nurse?

Subjects like English literature and history, which tend to give us a deeper and truer sympathy with human nature, are surely as much needed in the education of the nurse, who is to deal exclusively with human beings, as in the curriculum of the chemist or the engineer, who deals primarily with things and not with persons.

Moreover, the nurse's life, both before and after graduation, is so confined, so isolated, that she is especially in need of those inner resources which liberal education fosters. She needs them to prevent her from getting warped and depressed by the weight of concentrated sorrow and suffering, which her life forces upon her notice. It is not natural or healthy for any human being to be in contact all day with the sights and sounds of a hospital, or with the enervating atmosphere of the sick room. Nurses, therefore, need, far more than the rest of us, to be fortified and inspired by the consciousness of the more normal and successful sides of life. The educated nurse has resources to which to turn when her work is done, and can carry with her into her work a consciousness of other and more normal sides of life, which will give her balance and enthusiasm in the thick of her difficulties.

Summing up what has been said, I believe that training schools for nurses need:

(1) A sound financial basis, the students helping to pay the salaries of paid instructors.

(2) Nursing taught by nurses, medicine by physicians.

(3) Preparation for private nursing, by being taught in private families and by private nurses.

(4) A better balanced curriculum, containing liberal as well as purely technical studies.

It is rumoured in Walsall that a movement is on foot in certain quarters to induce the authorities to remove the statue of Sister Dora from its present position on the Bridge to some other site, in the vicinity of the Hospital preferred. We have not the least fear, however, that the public will ever give their sanction to this. They have nevertheless been powerless to rouse the authorities to a sense of their duty as to the due preservation of this unique monument.

Nurses' Leagues.

THE LEAGUE OF THE ROYAL SOUTH HANTS NURSES.

We recorded a short time ago the formation of a League of the Nurses of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, the President of which is Miss Mollett, the Hon. Treasurer Sister Winterscale, and the Hon. Secretary Sister Haldane. The qualification for membership is the certificate of the hospital, and we learn that the League has adopted the following objects:—

(a) By union to encourage the members to maintain a high standard of work and conduct.

(b) For mutual help and pleasure.

(c) To provide a means by which the certificated Royal South Hants Nurses can collectively express their views on matters of interest and importance to the nursing profession, or, if desired, take action in the same.

(d) To promote the establishment of a fund for the temporary relief and assistance of members of the League who are in need of such help.

We note with pleasure that the members of this League have made provision for the expression of their views on professional matters, and for giving effect to these views if necessary. One of the primary needs of nurses at the present day is the means of voicing their collective opinion on their professional concerns, and if a League is to afford the maximum benefit for its members this side of its sphere of usefulness must not be lost sight of. We congratulate the nurses of the Royal South Hants League on their sense of professional responsibility evinced by this clause in their Constitution.

GUY'S HOSPITAL LEAGUE.

We learn that a League of past and present nurses has recently been established at Guy's Hospital, and that the Matron will be pleased to receive the names and addresses of all nurses trained at Guy's, so that the objects of the League may be placed before them. This is very satisfactory news. We hope that other large training schools will soon follow the example of St. Bartholomew's and Guy's. Nurses have long felt the need of some organisation by means of which they can keep up their connection with their training school and with one another after their graduation, and the establishment of a League is invariably popular. Why should not St. Thomas' and King's have Leagues of their own? Their kind and popular Matrons have kept in touch with the majority of their pupils, so the formation of Leagues would be a simple matter. We understand that some of the most influential graduates of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, are keenly desirous of the establishment of a League.

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