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PRIVATE NURSING.

SECOND PAPER.

BY MISS LINDA RICHARDS,

*Superintendent of Nurses, Hospital for the Insane,
Taunton, Mass.*

If it is true that the responsibility of a community, a body, or an individual is measured by opportunity, the graduate nurse of to-day carries a burden which no one can call light,—a burden much heavier, I fear, than is realised by the majority of nurses.

Were we to ask the average graduate if she considers her advantages while in the training-school great, we might be surprised to hear in reply that she felt her opportunities to have been few, and not at all what she had expected or thought hers by right, and that she, as a matter of fact, considered her advantages as having been inferior to what they should have been, so prone is the human mind to fail to recognise present blessings in the attempt to catch sight of some fancied advantage not within reach.

To enable us to fully realise the opportunities of nurses recently graduated and of those still in training, let us enumerate a few of the more prominent.

In any well-regulated training-school of the present time we will find as a first requisite a superintendent of the school who is a graduate nurse, a woman having graduated from a school well known and of good report, and who has been chosen because of her fitness for the position.

If the school is connected with a large hospital, or if it is a school giving a three-years' course, graduate nurses will be found in charge of wards, thus giving the pupil-nurses the advantage of excellent instruction in their practical work, as well as superior teaching in the class- and lecture-room.

Text-books, many and varied, for class-work and reference—books especially adapted to the needs of nurses in training—are at her command. Many of these have been compiled by graduate nurses and superintendents of training-schools. A well-defined course of study, which (thanks to the Superintendents' Association) is now fairly uniform, will be found in all large training-schools. Added to this is given instruction in special branches, as some knowledge of dietetics, with practical instruction in the preparation of foods for the sick; hydrotherapy, limited largely to the

giving of the various kinds of baths, care and use of the electric-battery, massage and physical culture, the application of heat by the latest and most approved methods, and a knowledge of bacteriology, with the different methods employed in destroying germs. These are a few of the many subjects which are taught in the training-schools of the present day, and upon which nurses are required to pass a satisfactory examination before graduating.

Each branch is taught by an expert, thus giving pupils the surety of being well and uniformly instructed.

Demonstrations in modern methods of medical and surgical nursing, which are free to all nurses, are given by some of the larger hospitals, and these public demonstrations are of great value to nurses who have left the hospital and are in danger of growing rusty, and also to those who are still pupils in schools connected with smaller hospitals giving a more limited course of instruction.

Lecture courses for the benefit of private nurses are often provided by the alumnae of the school or by some graduate nurses' association which are open to all graduates for membership and consequent advantages.

Nurses' clubs have been organised by some schools. Connecting-links they are between the pupil-nurses and graduates, and productive of good in giving help and creating a feeling of unity.

The school alumnae, of which nearly every school of any standing boasts, and of which the national alumnae is an outgrowth, and which may be likened to the powerful oak grown from the tiny acorn.

The Nurses' Home, where nurses tired with the trying duties of the ward can go for rest and quiet. Nor would we forget that it was through the generosity of one noble woman that the first home for nurses in America was built, and so well has her example been followed that few indeed are the hospitals which have not a "Nurses' Home."

The Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, which has during its few years of existence accomplished so much for the nursing profession and, through the different schools, for under-graduates as well. It is because of the existence of this society that we have an approach to a universal curriculum, which will in time be found in use in all schools, and because of which all graduates will stand upon common ground.

It is through the influence of this society that the narrow school feeling is giving place to the broader interest in nursing as a profession. All these advantages have been instrumental in placing the nursing profession in America upon a higher level, thus adding to its strength and power.

It is also through the efforts of this society that

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