

we have to-day the special course in hospital economics in connection with Columbia College, from which two classes have been graduated. Already are the benefits derived from the course so apparent that one feels like prophesying that the time is not far distant when to be able to secure a position as superintendent of a training-school a diploma from this special course will be a necessity.

For a long time the need of a periodical especially adapted to the wants of nurses had been recognised, and the sentiment that only nurses who were thoroughly conversant with the needs of nurses could meet the demand grew daily stronger and to-day we have *The American Journal of Nursing*, and this long-felt need has been satisfactorily met.

Each year has given added opportunities, and so quietly have they come that those not concerned in bringing them about fail to detect them.

Opportunities of which the most optimistic nurse of twenty-five years ago would not have dreamed are now open to the pupil-nurse, and this without her effort or thought.

To prove that these advantages are real and great, let us compare the advantages just enumerated with those of the earliest pupils, who, when they entered the training-school, found there no graduate superintendent, no trained nurses in charge of wards to instruct them in practical duties, no class instruction was given, and in most things they were their own teachers. Lectures were given irregularly, no notes upon them being expected. They were required to know but little, and walked by faith, not by sight. But meagre as the instruction was, the pupils were taught that from the time they entered the training-school to the end of their life they would be considered as persons of great and grave responsibility.

And if nurses trained under the conditions just mentioned were given such a burden of responsibility, what shall be said of the nurse who graduates with the numberless advantages of the present day?

Is it not just that more and better results be expected of her than of her less favoured sister? Surely yes. The nurse of the present time is to be congratulated because of her many and varied privileges. But she is to constantly remember that hand in hand with these come heavy responsibilities. The first she will joyfully welcome. The last must be conscientiously borne.

Does some one ask, What are these responsibilities? The reply must be, Their name is legion. Two or three stand out so prominently that they almost name themselves. Let the nurse of to-day consider it her solemn duty to raise the standard ever higher. Let her keep in touch with every advanced movement. Let each year's work exceed in excellence that of the preceding year.

Let her show to the world that her profession is one of the grandest, and that she is an honour to it. Let her prove a help and blessing wherever she is found.

The eyes of the world are upon her, and great things are expected of her. Let her always carry this thought, "To whom much is given, of him is much required."

Legal Matters.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The action of Miss Lloyd Harris, against the Executive Committee of the Brighton, Hove, and Preston District Nursing Association, to which we referred last week, for £48 8s. od., damages for breach of contract (including eight guineas for expenses incurred) was last week settled out of court. This is matter for regret, as the points involved were important.

The plaintiff's case was that she wrote to Miss Buckle, the Superintendent of the defendant Association in answer to an advertisement, applying to be trained as a Queen's Nurse, but stating that she could not afford to work for three years without a salary, and received the reply that the Association could give her two years' training in hospital qualifying for a Queen's Nurse. She engaged on those terms, and was accepted for a vacancy at the Sussex County Hospital. She had the offer of a post at Wolverhampton, which was cancelled on the understanding that Miss Scott, the Matron of the Hospital, was willing to keep her. Shortly after Mrs. Uthoff, the Hon. Secretary of the Association, paid plaintiff a visit, with the object of obtaining her signature to a three years' agreement. Upon her stating that her agreement was for two years, Mrs. Uthoff replied that she must have been mistaken. Miss Scott, the Matron of the Sussex County Hospital, said that the period of training required by the hospital was for three years. Conditions to that effect were she believed signed by the plaintiff, but she could not produce the paper, which she believed was destroyed.

The importance of documentary evidence in all agreements of this nature is thus emphasised. Apparently neither the District Nursing Association, the hospital, nor the nurse have any written evidence of the conditions under which the nurse began her training. For the protection of all concerned it is obvious that such conditions should be incorporated in a legal agreement and signed over a sixpenny stamp by the contracting persons, and such agreements should be carefully filed for reference.

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