

Superintendents of to-day there rests an enormous responsibility. In their wise selection of probationers, and in the example and precept they set before their pupils, they can sound the keynote of the tone of the nursing profession of the future. Now is the time to assure probationers that it is not enough that they attain technical proficiency. Unwearied devotion to the sick—obedience to medical directions—these lessons have been taught, and well assimilated in the past, and have resulted in prodigious self-sacrifice, and the crowning of many martyrs in the battalions of the great army of nurses all over the world. This fine devotion to duty is mainly the result of the lessons received by nurses during their training from high-minded women placed in authority over them. It is magnificent, but it is not enough. In addition to a fine example in all the domestic virtues, and in selfless devotion in the practical care of the sick, our young nurses must be inspired also with a keen sense of citizenship so that when they leave the training school they will be fully alive to the importance of their public and professional duties, and be ready to enter their corporate life in the right spirit, the spirit which asks not what it is to receive, but what it can give, for this, after all, is the essence of professional as opposed to commercial existence. They must be taught that their predecessors have won for them privileges and liberties which are a sacred trust, which are not theirs to hold or renounce at will, but which it is their duty to jealously guard. Further, they must be fired with ambition not only to maintain the standard attained by their predecessors, but also, in their day and generation, to guide their profession onward and upward. There are heroic qualities in the modern woman which will respond to such teaching.

Perhaps at the present time the practical is in advance of the ethical side of our work, just because in a great measure we have been so occupied in raising our standard of practical proficiency, that we have had little time, and given too little thought, to the preparation of the pupil for the wider obligations which lie before her when she emerges from the state of tutelage, and becomes an independent graduate.

PRACTICAL ORGANIZATION.

Experience has shown that both amongst men and women the best and strongest bond of union is to be found in the close ties of friendship formed by those who have been educated together, or have passed through the same course of training, and who are naturally drawn together by sympathy with, and admiration for, their common

Alma Mater. And thus the system so wisely inaugurated in the United States, now being also successfully followed in the United Kingdom, the union of nurses belonging to the same training schools for mutual help and protection, offers in many respects the strongest bond, as well as the greatest incitement to nurses to associate together.

We may take it then that the units of organization in the Nursing Profession should be Societies of Nurses who hold the certificate of the same Training School, and who are therefore graduates of their profession. The exercise of the graduate vote would thus enfranchise professionally each certificated nurse, and it would become the aim of every probationer not only to obtain the certificate of her school, but admission to membership of its League.

Whilst realising that combination is the best means of effecting organization and reform, the weight of our Nursing Societies does not depend upon their numerical strength, but on the vital force and courage of their individual members. Spirit is an intangible thing. Anatomists tell us they dissect a body and do not find it. But it is indisputable that the great movements which stir society from its very foundations are invariably produced by the workings of the living spirit of man. Such great movements usually owe their impetus to one of those master spirits endowed with the genius, energy, and confidence which fit a man to wield these moral forces; to reveal to his age the wants of which it had but a dim and perplexed consciousness; to interpret to it its own confused and half-formed opinions, and to give them shape, compactness, and strength.

For some time to come there will remain a large body of nurses, working in various branches of nursing, who are not eligible for association in connection with the large training schools. In England, hundreds of these practical workers are engaged in private and district nursing, and in organizing our profession, some means must be found to associate together this large number of workers. How is this to be done? Why not by forming a National League of Nurses, composed of Delegates representing each Training School Society, and also of Delegates from professional Associations of Nurses, formed for the benefit of nurses, who hold the approved qualifications of training?

A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Having by delegation formed a National Society or League of Nurses, it would appear to me to be desirable to advance organization still further by affiliating together in a Federation of Nurses, preferably called a National Council, representatives of the Matrons' and Nurses' National Societies in

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