

methods adopted since her graduation are what the private nurse wants more particularly, while she who has dropped out of the field of actual nursing into executive work realises her need of an all-round course of study.

In some, if not most, of the post-graduate courses, the graduate, like the pupil, receives her training by doing the entire nursing of the institution. She has practically the same working day—usually nine hours—which she laboured through in her training school period. Her work differs from her school work in being of a special nature, but not otherwise; the same amount of work, if not more, is expected to be accomplished; there being no probationer, she must scrub basins, clean bath-rooms, dust and do other work which in a school the senior nurse is usually relieved of.

It is far from the intention of this paper to criticise post-graduate hospitals and their methods. If these institutions receive graduates for instruction and depend upon them to nurse their patients, naturally the first consideration must be given to the patients and to the accomplishment of the routine duties of the institution. In preference to dirty basins and bath rooms and undusted rooms, the graduate must scrub and clean and dust. But the question to be asked is, "Is the graduate getting what she wants and needs out of post-graduate work? Has she time and strength to devote to the work now expected from her in a post-graduate hospital?"

Few women who have completed a two or three years' course in a nurses' school and then devoted from five to fifteen or even more years to nursing are willing or able to make such an expenditure of their strength.

As far as the writer could find, with the exception of the few schools which are attempting to provide for their own, there is no general hospital open to the graduate nurse, so that, even if she would spend time and money and strength, no post-graduate work—in other than the specialties—is available.

If the foregoing statements be true—namely, that nurses' schools cannot undertake post-graduate work, that special post-graduate courses meet the need of a very limited class of nurses, and that no general hospitals are offering these opportunities—we must acknowledge that in reality there is no post-graduate instruction for nurses in the country. That there is necessity for this instruction and a desire for it felt by nurses in general is beyond dispute. Such being the case, it would seem that something should be done to meet the demand.

As it is nurses who feel this need and nurses who will be benefitted, naturally it must be the nurses themselves who will work out the problem and establish such courses of instruction as they

wish. The time for depending upon others for every step in the road of progress is long past. Nurses are strongly united now, and thoroughly capable of meeting this demand.

Over two years ago there was organized a course in Hospital Economics at Columbia University. The object is to prepare women to be teachers in nurses' schools. The announcement for 1901-1902 states that "Six students are completing the course for the year 1900-1901, and it is hoped that at least as large a class will be formed for the coming year. Should any nurse of exceptional ability come under your notice, we trust you will place the advantages of the course before her." Further on the report says, "The expenses for the past year were met in part by contributions from many individual superintendents of training schools. Since then no improvement has taken place in the financial condition, and for the coming year there is no present prospect of any other contributions," and so on.

The reasoning which leads up to the following conclusion may be wrong, but it seems to the writer that if this course, instead of being planned for only nurses of "exceptional ability" or for those who wish to be teachers, were arranged to suit all graduates; if the "hospital economics" course could be made simply a specialty of the whole with another division devoted to practical nursing and new methods, and the whole recognised as post-graduate work, that the present object of training teachers would not suffer. It does not seem unreasonable to predict that large classes of nurses taking up the practical nursing course would assist by their fees very materially to meet the expenses involved.

Should this come to pass, the National Alumnae Association and nurses at large would be interested and feel called upon to assist, and no longer would the financial burden fall on training school superintendents who are unable to bear it indefinitely.

It is beyond the scope of this paper and the ability of the writer to attempt to suggest the desired schedule of instruction. Without doubt, there would be difficulties to overcome; hospitals would have to be found which would open their doors to graduate nurses on an entirely new basis.

Such questions, as all others on this subject, must be handed over for solution to the wise decision of the committee on Teachers' Course. The object of this paper would be accomplished if it could persuade that committee to consider this matter and if possible enlarge the present undeniably narrow field of work to include all nurses.

If such a thing could be brought about, an inestimable boon would be conferred upon the graduate nurses of the country, and it would seem that the question of post-graduate work would be solved in the most satisfactory manner possible.

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