

lengthen the course of training and shorten the hours of manual work for nurses in training schools. Just how far reaching has been the effect during these nine years of effort I am not prepared to state in statistical form. However, two years ago there were reported fifty-six hospitals that had extended their course to three years, and five that had lengthened their two-years course by several months. A number of these had reduced their working hours to ten or nine, very few to eight. In 1891 Harper Hospital adopted the eight-hour system, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital and several others have done so within the past few years.

These sixty-one reports showed that there had been some improvement in the course of study provided for pupil nurses; though there was no uniform standard of admission or instruction. There is still much to work out on that line.

Better quarters and conditions generally for nurses now exist than nine years ago, for we hear of many more nurses' homes being built in connection with hospital training-schools.

Another step that has been taken by this Society to advance nursing education was the development during the past three years of the course in hospital economics at Teachers' College, Columbia University. The officers have issued a prospectus giving a statement of its aim and purpose, course of instruction, terms of admission, fees and expenses. We have also a committee that will report to us on the work that has thus far been accomplished. The advantages of the mental equipment which such a course of study and practice provides can perhaps be estimated best by those of us who, through a lack of systematic preparation for the administration of training-schools, feel keenly our limitations in working out methods for others to follow. The Domestic Science Course, including foods, home sanitation and economics, and household chemistry, will appeal to every training-school superintendent, because it promises to nurses in the future better instruction in these important subjects. The Hospital Economics Course will better qualify graduate nurses to take part in reform and protective work. Miss Richards's paper on the subject, also read at the Women's Council at Washington last February, must have been a revelation to many; and it is full of suggestions of future possibilities. It is true, as she states, that "nurses are by their training especially fitted for reform and preventive work, and each year finds a larger number employed outside of what might be considered strictly professional lines."

Fifty thousand dollars are needed to endow a chair of Hospital Economics in Teachers' College, and that is a good object for all nurses to work for. Some may have a talent for impressing wealthy, philanthropic people that it is a good investment for

a generous sum, on the principle that everything that tends to increase the efficiency of the nurse and to improve the methods of caring for the sick is a good investment. The popular giving by large numbers in small sums is an excellent way also, and creates a widespread interest that furthers a good cause, and benefits many—for there certainly is nothing that helps the giver so much as giving.

Preparatory education of nurses is now engaging the attention of training-school superintendents, and in the series of papers on that subject to be read to us we shall have the benefit of much careful thought and some practical experience. Special central schools, technical schools, and hospital schools are severally advocated for the preliminary course for probationers. Whatever their relative merits, a good working method must include the needs and the capacity of the average hospital, which is neither large nor wealthy. Domestic science will be included in the preparatory course, and again superintendents will rejoice in future prospects; for where is there one who does not recognise the lack of knowledge of housekeeping as one of the weak points in the average pupil-nurse? And often because of imperfect methods of teaching in training-schools, or a total lack of teaching, the graduate nurse who otherwise may be technically skilled is criticised for faults of omission and commission in her relationship to the housekeeping department in private families.

State registration for nurses, as a means to the end of securing legislation for the protection of nurses and the public, and for the improvement of standards in training-school teaching, is a large subject in which we are interested. We shall become further enlightened on points relating to it through Miss Allerton's paper and the discussions we hope will follow.

New York, Virginia, Illinois, and New Jersey have already taken definite steps toward accomplishing State registration.

The Alumnae Associations of Detroit will make the first move for Michigan, in October.

The need of action is manifest here, for there is established in our midst an institution calling itself the "Detroit Correspondence School of Nursing," and claiming to be incorporated under the laws of Michigan.

Detroit may be somewhat conservative—in the matter of regulation of its standard of time, for instance—but it is not altogether slow, I assure you, for even Chicago could hardly exceed the rapid transit method of educating nurses that obtains in that so-called "School of Nursing." A six months' course, and all by correspondence! A facsimile of the "diploma" occupies one page of the "announcement," and is described as being 15 by 20 inches, is printed on the best bond paper, and is a work of art which the graduate will prize." It furthermore

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)