

this deposit, and the walls and arches, the domes and towers, the columns and entablatures, now to be erected over it, may endure for ever!

"GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!"
And so pray we all.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

The American Nursing World.

REPORT PRESENTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF NURSES.

To Mrs. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL, President International Council of Women.

DEAR MADAM,—The two subjects that have been of leading importance in the nursing world during the past year are State Registration and Preliminary Training for Nurses.

STATE REGISTRATION.

At the present time, there is no fixed standard of education for the nurse, every so-called training-school being a law unto itself. By State Registration the minimum requirement of education will be fixed by the State, upon the same general lines as those which now regulate the education of the physician, and the practice of medicine.

This is a nurses' movement for the elevation and advancement of nursing to a profession status. In this movement they will have the support and co-operation of the most liberal members of the medical profession and the public, but they will be opposed by managers of schools that are not giving a legitimate education to their pupils in training—by physicians who are not willing to grant an independent professional status to the nurse—and by the great army of women who, wearing a nurse's uniform and demanding her wages, have never been granted a diploma from any kind of a training-school. This movement, if successful, will not prevent the public from employing the untrained women, if it is so desired, but it will prevent this class of women from imposing themselves upon it as regularly trained nurses.

New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and Illinois have already organised State Associations, with a view to obtaining legislation, for State Registration of Nurses.

PRELIMINARY TRAINING.

By preliminary training a complete revolution in the existing methods of teaching nurses will be brought about.

Under the prevailing system the pupil, without the least knowledge of the theory of medicine or nursing, is placed in a hospital ward of sick people, and is taught not only the technical work by actual practice upon sick patients, but the theory at the same time, by classes, lectures, demonstrations and examinations. The hours of actual ward work are long, and the physical and nervous strain very great, to say nothing of the annoyance to patients of such awkward service.

With the constant advance in medical science, in order to become an intelligent nurse a pupil must be taught much more of this theory of medicine than

formerly; such instruction is becoming a great burden to the hospital and is complicating its practical administration in a proportionate degree.

The idea of preliminary training is to devote one year to teaching the nurse all of the *theory* that she needs to know—with the necessary branches of domestic science—and a certain amount of the manual work, such as making and changing a bed, giving a bath, sweeping and dusting a room, serving a tray, &c., &c., so that when she is, for the first time, brought in contact with her patient, she understands what she is to accomplish, and *how* to perform the more simple manual duties.

The Glasgow Infirmary, the London Hospital, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, have such courses in connection with their training-school department—but many hospitals cannot afford the expense of this course—and it is proposed to establish in this country central nursing institutes, where the pupils of a number of schools may receive such theoretical instruction, under a competent corps of teachers. The difficulties are the expense, and a curriculum that will be satisfactory to numbers of superintendents, and boards of managers.

The Simmons College of Boston has been asked to establish such a course, which shall be outlined by a committee representing ten important training-schools in that vicinity.

The Mechanics' Institute of Rochester is prepared to act favourably, when a curriculum shall be agreed upon by the representatives of the many schools of that city. Philadelphia and New York are agitating the question. This is also a nurses' movement for the improvement of nursing standards, and the practical side seems to appeal favourably to intelligent men and women interested in hospital administration and nursing education.

Perhaps the most recent departure from the regular lines of work is an experiment that is being tried in New York, whereby a trained nurse is working with one of the medical inspectors of the public schools—but this is of too recent date to give the results.

Respectfully submitted,

SOPHIA F. PALMER,

American Federation of Nurses.

Miss Giles, Superintendent of the Training School of the Homœopathic Hospital, Pittsburg, has been elected President of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and the next annual meeting of the Society will be held in Pittsburg in October, 1903. May we hope that in 1904 the Superintendents' Society may find it possible to foregather at Berlin?

The delegates from this country to the International Congress of Nurses last year who were charmed with the friendliness and hospitality extended to them by Miss Agnes S. Brennan, then Superintendent of the New York Training School for Nurses at the great Bellevue Hospital, New York, will be glad to know that Miss Brennan, who has resigned this position after twenty-two years' arduous work, is now enjoying a well-earned rest amongst her own people in Ireland. A cordial welcome from her colleagues awaits her when she is able to visit London.

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