

scheme from beginning to end is under the direction of competent judges of the requisites.

I will give one case in point, showing the difficulty of arranging a course in any technical school not wholly given up to that one purpose.

In the *Journal* you must have seen the notice that the superintendents of nurses in Boston met at the Thorndike to discuss "nursing questions," and although that was not their only meeting to discuss those same questions, the moving cause of this particular one was an article which appeared in the *Transcript* entitled "A Unique Institution for Women's Technical Education."

It was a glowing announcement and offered opportunities for technical preparation in every walk of life in which women are engaged as bread-winners. Among others, and most important to the superintendents, was the announcement that a preparatory course for nurses would be established. We hailed it with delight for the promise it gave. A committee was formed to confer with the officers, and an audience was granted by the Dean, who kindly devoted some time to the discussion, frankly acknowledged that no plans had been formed, because no one knew exactly what was wanted, courteously listened while we explained our position, now and then made a suggestion, frequently asked a leading question, was readily convinced that in this instance it was not one, but many, branches that had to be condensed, weeded out or dovetailed together to make a symmetrical whole, but the suggestion that nurses have a voice in this arrangement met with negative and most non-committal encouragement. While apparently recognising the justice and common sense of the request, we were made aware that we had reached the limit of the Dean's authority, and were informed that the matter would be laid before the trustees. You will hear more about this in detail from the chairman of the committee, so I will simply sum up the points I wish to make.

The school is to be preparatory for the purpose of acquiring theoretical knowledge of the practical work required, so that the work from the beginning of the probation be intelligently, not mechanically, performed.

It is to be established outside hospital or training-school jurisdiction, for its broad general effect. It is to be central, bounded at first by natural or geographical divisions, later by the need and ability to establish greater numbers, but never exclusive.

The plan, based on the relation of the preparatory school to the training-school.

The term, one school year.

The curriculum, arranged by a committee of experts composed equally of nurses and teachers. Entrance qualifications fixed by the same committee.

A fee, nominal or otherwise, according to the financial status of the school, but always a fee.

The certificate, a blank form filled out by the proper authorities constituting a standard for entrance to a training-school.

The principal of the school to be an ex-superintendent of nurses chosen by the superintendents of training-schools of the Territory within which the preparatory school is situated. The choice to be ratified by the trustees.

While the whole scheme as presented is merely a rough outline, it is perhaps enough to show that the undertaking, if not overwhelming, is neither small nor simple.

We are agreed the world over that an innovation is a necessity—something must be done to improve the present training-school system, and we are unanimous also that the "something" is a preparation for the work, before undertaking it, the only real difference of opinion being who shall be responsible for this primary education.

I hope that I have made myself clear, that, while not under-estimating any of the difficulties, the plan is feasible, the only serious obstacle to deal with being the monetary situation.

### Testimonial to Miss Gordon.

Miss Gordon, on her retirement from St. Thomas's Hospital, has been presented with a testimonial from her past and present nurses. The subscription was limited, but the long list of subscribers, including names from many parts of the world, will show the esteem and affection in which she is held by those who have worked under her.

The testimonial, at her request, is to be used towards the furnishing of her house.

### Returning from the Front.

The following Nursing Sisters are on their way home from South Africa:—

On the *Walmer Castle*:—Sisters M. M. Bond, M. M. McLeish, W. Halliday, M. E. Tippets, E. Johnson, M. Montgomery, E. E. Eastmead. Due at Southampton November 15th.

On the *Orcana*:—Sisters A. N. Ferguson, H. C. Parcer, H. Lampett, A. F. Plunkett, J. Murdock, J. N. Umerod, and E. Andrews. Due at Southampton November 18th.

On the *Arundel Castle*:—Sister E. H. Halliwell. Due at Southampton on November 26th.

On the *Scot*:—Sister G. Napier. Due at Southampton on November 22nd.

The *Assaye*, which sailed from Port Natal on October 29th, and was due to arrive at Bombay on November 12th, had on board Nursing Sister Rees.

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