

## Educational Matters.

### TEACHERS' COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Just now, when the organisation of a Post-Graduate Course for Certificated Nurses is receiving consideration from the authorities of Bedford College, some details of the Special Course in Hospital Economics at Teachers' College, Columbia University, are of special interest. The Chairman of the Course, Miss Maud Banfield, presented an interesting report of the work done to the Ninth Annual Convention of the American Society of Training-Schools for Nurses, held at Detroit in the fall of last year, in which the following details are incorporated:—

Of the ten students accepted by the Committee, six completed the last year's Course. Their standing compared well with that of the regular students of the College. They were earnest and industrious, and their instructors spoke well of them in every particular.

Miss Banfield pleads for the maintenance of a high grade in the nursing students sent to Teachers' College, for businesslike methods on the part of those appointed to deal with the College authorities, and for general interest in the Course.

The endowment of a Chair of Hospital Economics is very desirable, and would give the students a regular standing. This or any other gift should, she says, be made directly through the Society of Superintendents, or their Committee constituting the Board of Examiners, as the public are not ready yet to distinguish the necessity of any definite standard of training.

The students' tuition fees have been raised from 100 to 150 dollars per annum. For the present year eight candidates have matriculated.

At the end of the financial year the Committee had in hand 131 dollars 62 cents, as well as 114 dollars in a separate account for an endowment fund. The chief expenses are the salary of the instructor

in charge and the travelling expenses of the visiting lecturers, amounting, with postage expenses, to about 900 dollars a year. The Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, has given the services of a stenographer and all office facilities.

It is desirable that applicants should have held some post of considerable responsibility in a hospital before undertaking the Course, or else of their being willing to accept minor positions when they leave. While, said Miss Banfield, personal equation would always be a prime factor in this work, experience had proved that the graduate fresh from school, or such a position as head nurse of a ward, or other minor positions where ultimate decisions

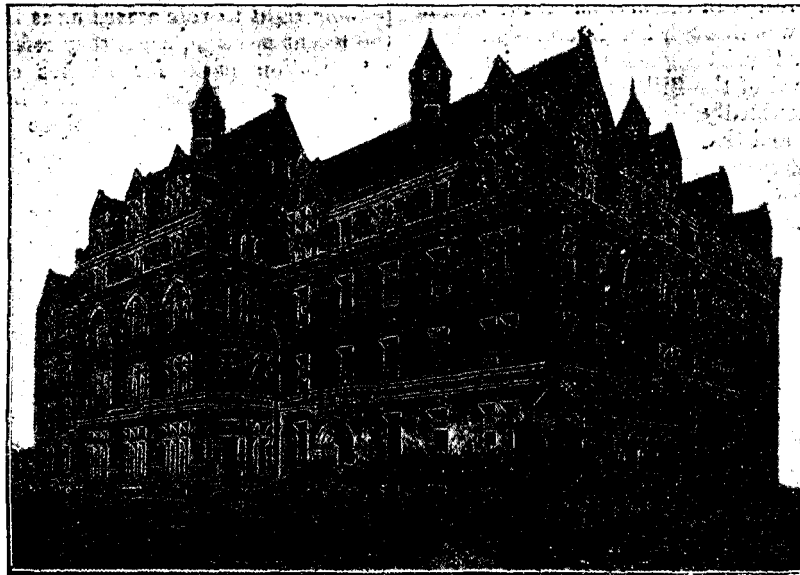
did not rest with her, or having added to her school training only that of private nursing, profited less by the instruction given than women of wider experience.

The former students do not know what they need, and questions are discussed of the mere existence of which they are ignorant. The applica-

tion of the instruction offered can only be afforded in a hospital; therefore the College cannot make Superintendents, but only help them to make themselves. It cannot confer executive power, but it can supply certain definite information which enables it to be used without the loss of energy caused by unnecessary friction.

Those who come to the College without a record in executive positions have, therefore, one to make when they leave it, and must be content to fill posts at moderate salaries. They can, says Miss Banfield, readily prove that they can handle larger responsibilities, they will then obtain them.

Perhaps one of the most valuable features of the Course is that it brings the nurses who pass through it into touch with an educational body. As a class, trained nurses have so far come little in contact with the higher education movement, yet Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools should be conversant with the most approved educational methods.



Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)