

assembled, we can pay them no more fitting tribute than the proof of our worthiness to follow with energy and zeal in the paths marked out by them so long ago.

You are to be congratulated, members of this sixth annual Convention of the Associated Alumnae, upon your attainments, which are many in comparison with your years as an organisation.

Any adequate survey of the good accomplished by your predecessors would draw largely on the history of the advance made by the nursing profession during the last seven years.

The wheel of progress in nursing matters began in this country about ten years ago to move with greatly accelerated force, and while its rotation has thus far been guarded and safe, it has disseminated knowledge and with knowledge power, until to-day nurses are reasoning upon all schemes for the betterment of their work and enlargement of their opportunities. Heedless of the fact that by the multiplication of opportunities responsibilities are increased, yet they push on and on, demanding more and more of those advantages which, when gained, ultimately call for more and more diligence on their part.

In proof of this, witness the desire of the average nurse for three or more years of training, which, though they are arduous in the extreme, she deems necessary as a proper equipment for her work.

Also witness the new movement among nurses—namely, that for State registration, which will certainly not permit careless methods in either preparation for or the practice of their profession. Surely these changes do not indicate an ease-loving body of women. Furthermore, it is a significant fact that these improvements are not the results of suggestions from the public or the patrons of the nurse, but have in all instances originated with her, the public, as a rule, acquiescing by reason of ignorance or negligence.

But we must not indulge too long in exultation, however honest it may be; rather let us turn to the leading reflections to which this occasion seems to invite us, regarding the objects old and new of our existence, the manner in which we have fulfilled them, and the instructions required along new lines.

Believing that we must educate or perish, it is avowedly one of our purposes to elevate the standard of nursing education. This principle was ever before the founders of our organisation, and they have already left visible fruits of their work in the longer period now required for the training of nurses, and in that noble enterprise from which has grown the *American Journal of Nursing*. This is all our own—conceived in the Associated Alumnae, fostered by its members, managed and edited by members, it

has risen to a condition of success that is almost dazzling in its brilliancy. But just at this point lies our danger, that of relaxation of endeavour. The success of the *Journal* must be maintained, but will not be without our combined efforts. At our last annual meeting it was decided that each delegate should obtain a certain number of new subscriptions, and by a vote we each gave a pledge so to do—how well those pledges were redeemed may be known only to the individual members.

The enthusiasm of the launching of the enterprise has passed—we now require the gift of continuance in industry. Therefore let every alumna feel it her duty to make a personal effort for the support and more extensive circulation of the *Journal*. It is to be hoped that our Magazine Committee will suggest to us some method by which we may consider ourselves organised into a committee of the whole for that purpose.

A greatly enlarged curriculum in most of our schools for nurses is also an outgrowth of the determination to elevate the standard of nursing education. Indications seem to say that the school not having the system of university education will soon be the exception, and will find its powers of attraction in inverse ratio to its needs.

The establishment of the course in hospital economics at Columbia University is another result of the desire for elevation. It has heretofore been supported largely by contributions from individual superintendents of training-schools and the Society of Superintendents as a whole. It has certainly been a practical illustration of devotion to a principle for the superintendents so to do, but it is a task which, though self-imposed, they should no longer be allowed to bear alone, and the question naturally arises whether our resources are sufficient to enable us to be of service in the support and promulgation of this course. We may not be justified in thinking that we can draw upon our treasury for any appreciable amount, but do we not represent force and intelligence enough to solve this problem of home missionary work of our own peculiar kind? Have we not among us some loyal, earnest spirits who shall arise within the next two days and suggest the means for the accomplishment of this purpose? It cannot be done without sacrifice of time, and strength, and money.

We hope you may have the needs of the course presented to you in a few words by the chairman of the committee having it in charge.

The need of adequate post-graduate advantages is an urgent one, and is to-day more than ever making demands for its satisfaction.

It is not the province of the Associated Alumnae to dictate to the schools their duty in this direction, but might we not be allowed to remind them of that which it is expedient for them to undertake?

Lest many good practical women be lost to the

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