

ing the term "ethics" which causes the average nurse to turn away and wait for another to ask the first question or make the first demand.

It has been said by our critics that by reason of this deficiency we improperly call ourselves members of a profession, that members of all other professions gladly share their professional advantages, that they are willing to give as well as to receive, &c.

It cannot be said that we are more selfish; it must be that we have not been sufficiently enlightened as to our own needs. We do believe, however, it is the want of an ethical sense in some of our members that is placing the trained nurse under the ban of a critical public. Truly the public is often unjust in condemning the whole nursing body for the sins of the individual, but we must bear it and in time overcome it.

We all doubtless had some instruction from our teachers during the period of our training, but that was long ago and was indifferently appreciated—now we might teach each other, and possibly the human element within us would enable us to respond to it more readily than if one high in authority and practice of ethical principles were to instruct us.

Might not this be one of the most profitable subjects of study during another year, followed by a recapitulation of progress at our next annual meeting?

What an inspiration to effort the individual alumnae associations would have in the knowledge that similar societies all over this broad land were interested in searching for light upon the same theme.

We have some literature upon the subject—notably the work of your own first president; to that you are recommended.

After a year of preparation we might be able to properly amend our constitution and by-laws by the addition of an article which should really provide for the maintenance of a code of ethics.

As evidence that we are paying some heed to the financial and other interests of nurses, you have only to turn to the pages of the last annual report and read thereon the discussion as to ways and means for their advancement.

The foundations of our structure have been laid, and we believe they are broad and deep, but we trust that the work which has begun so auspiciously may be continued in earnestness and with indefatigable industry. We still have much, even in the present, to be accomplished, and no doubt the future contains *more* as yet unrevealed.

Last year we placed ourselves on record as believing in the necessity for the preliminary education of nurses and pledged ourselves to work for it. We now know that in some communities are already found secular institutions undertaking

this new work, while a few courageous schools for nurses have initiated it for their own benefit. May success attend all their efforts, and may we by our sympathy and deliberations in convention receive from them some encouragement and impetus which shall act and react upon the waste places until every alumna, every superintendent, every candidate, and every member of a training-school committee shall be an ardent believer in preliminary instruction for nurses.

Both extremities of a nurse's training are now under consideration, and they are the two burning issues of the time—preliminary education and State registration. Apparently these must be found upon every banner; they must be the rallying-cry of all our forces until that time shall come when they are an established fact for every training-school and in every State.

Preliminary or other education of nurses—that which educates for the care of the diseased body and mind—does not include that which is conducted by correspondence and which pretends, without a practical application, to fit women in the ease and quiet of their own homes to properly care for the sick and disabled. Such sham methods, whose advertisements may be found on the pages of our leading periodicals, must be discountenanced.

Neither can those schools without a physician or trained nurse on their boards of teachers properly *begin* the instruction of nurses. They may be able to impart much valuable information and put their students in the way of acquiring knowledge that is useful to a nurse, and which she would do well to gratefully accept, but they can never even begin a nurse's training. We have not to look beyond our most limited horizon to realise the truth of this—it is taught us by the experiences of everyday life and is easily perceivable through our common sense. What technical school looks to one who is merely a good teacher of English to instruct its students in chemistry or the mechanical arts? Is not a practical chemist called to teach chemistry and a practical bridge-builder to teach bridge-building? How then should nursing be taught? Your answer, by inference, can be but one—by nurses.

For securing State registration, of whose progress you will hear in this Convention, we of the States in which it is yet but a new question must gird our armour on and with infinite tact and with charity towards all press on for the accomplishment of that which will secure for the nurse a legal status never heretofore enjoyed.

In this we will undoubtedly be aided by the experience of the pioneers in the work, who have already obtained recognition from their State governments and are now prepared to put to the practical test the theories for which they laboured so strenuously. All tribute to that noble band of

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