

place in the economic and scientific world by the readjustment of household work and by creating the desire and the demand that our sons and daughters, children of all ranks and grades, should be given a proper education; that from the beginning there shall go hand-in-hand the teaching of their numberless faculties that shall make for a practical and proper appreciation of the principles of art, education, and labour, and the joy to be found in each. For then, and then only, can they understand what life means and know how to live. Moreover, the preparation must be such a one as shall be a fitting preliminary training for their future occupation in life, whether it be that of the trained nurse, the physician, the house-keeper, statesman, artist, or artisan, each one, whether man or woman, being prepared to fill their chosen niche, happy in having found it, and not, as now too often happens, being forced into occupations for which they often have neither the heart, head, nor hand.

Upon both men and women are we dependent for the first steps that shall establish and thoroughly equip professional schools for the investigation of all subjects pertaining to the household, and that shall offer suitable inducements only to such persons as have the proper attainments for carrying on such studies, after which we may look for the establishment of technical schools for children embracing all branches of work that in any manner touch the home. These schools should cover the country like a net-work, as do the public schools, and should co-operate with them; they, too, should have the authority of the law behind them, for which the rank and file of the people have due respect. In such schools should the trained nurse find her proper place. With her more intimate knowledge of disease and its causes and the dangers that menace health, she is well fitted to be the teacher of home sanitation, hygiene, the personal laws of health, the true meaning of cleanliness, and the prevention of disease. Despite the fact that bacteriologists are every day throwing more light upon the causes of disease, and each city is equipped with its health officer, hospitals are still being multiplied in the land, the supply of trained nurses is not equal to the demand, and our wards are just as full of typhoid fever patients as of yore. These facts must sometimes make us pause to question if we are not spending our labour and strength for that which profiteth not. But thus it must be until the public at large and as individuals have acquired a practical, intelligent appreciation of the above subjects and of the duties of individuals and communities in the prevention of disease.

We need two orders of trained nurses, the new order of the health nurse co-operating with the old order for the sick, who must ever be with us. The appointment of a staff of trained nurses to the

schools of New York by the Health Commission for the purpose of continuing the work in the public schools is the beginning of this new order, and is a hopeful sign of the times.

Graduates of to-day, we who are already of the guild, greet you heartily and give you cordial welcome to your place among us. In your future work we see much of hope and promise. When you have grown a little older, and have had a more varied experience, you will realise that the mere care of the patient is the least part of your work compared with what you can and ought to do towards making the conditions that cause pain and sickness and all manner of suffering less possible.

In a recent issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* Miss Dock says: "After one has worked for a time in healing wounds which should never have been inflicted, tending illness which should never have developed, sending patients to hospitals who need not have gone if their homes were habitable, bringing charitable aid to persons who would not have needed charity if health had not been ruined by unwholesome conditions, one loses heart and longs for preventive work, constructive work—something that will make it less easy for so many illnesses and accidents to occur, that will help to bring better homes and workshops, better conditions of life and labour." And this expressed longing finds its echo in the heart of each of us, who have learned by experience that the faithful nursing of the patient, the splendid work done in so many forms of philanthropy, and the efforts of religion do not reach the root of the matter. In your professional life you have learned that we may dress and nurse a wound ever so carefully, but that all our work represents time and energy expended in vain, that a breakdown of the wound is inevitable did not the surgeon first clean and scrape away all the diseased tissues, reaching deep down into the fresh, healthy part, until no germ of disease was left to impair the growth of new, healthy flesh. And so it is with our work in caring for humanity in other ways—we are but staying a worse condition, perhaps, but not removing the cause, if we rest satisfied with mere treatment and do not direct our best energies towards prevention.

You are, therefore, to be congratulated in your choice of work. You are entering a field of labour that is ever widening, and where each can make for herself a definite place in rendering such ideals of education as I have but haltingly tried to show you to-day practical facts. More especially are you to be congratulate in your choice of a school where the standard of excellence desired for its graduates is so clearly set forth, and where there is placed within the reach of pupils the possibility of that quality of thoroughness that is the great need and demand of the day.

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