

large enough to furnish a skilled and efficient equipment not only for the hospitals but also to supply the nursing wants of private individuals and families. Dr. Blatin gives well thought out details of the plan by which he believes this desirable consummation may be attained. He has fully grasped the methods which are followed in this country, and we can pay him no higher compliment than to say that if those in authority in France would but read his excellent book and follow its precepts, they would confer on their country an incalculable boon, and gain from their suffering poor an everlasting gratitude.—*British Medical Journal*.

The American Nursing World.

THE HARVARD COLLEGE OF NURSING.

The announcement has been made in these pages, says *The American Journal of Nursing*, that Harvard University was to establish a department of nursing, our information, published some little time ago, being that this new department was for the purpose of teaching nursing to medical students, not to nurses.

Now it seems to be conclusively decided that the new College of Nursing is to be for nurses, that it is to be a separate department, as are medicine, the law, &c., with a separate curriculum and a four-years' course that shall include hospital experience and private nursing.

That a great university like Harvard should open its doors to nurses is magnificent; that nursing is to become a dignified profession, with the recognition accorded the other learned professions, seems to be an assured fact. The dream that looked to be so far in the distant future may become a reality even while we are here to see the end.

Harvard's example will be followed, and other universities will establish departments of nursing.

It is too early to predict upon what general lines Harvard's Nursing College will be organised. From a broad outlook the whole plan must be most cordially commended by the nursing profession, but from a nearer standpoint we feel somewhat distrustful of the immediate result.

Dr. Alfred Worcester, of Waltham, who is to be at the head of the new Nursing College, holds views in regard to the training of nurses quite at variance with the great nursing body of this country, the older and leading women who have had experience as pupils and teachers, and from whom Dr. Worcester has taken the idea of a Nursing College.

The women of the greatest experience are convinced and stand united in the opinion that a carefully arranged preliminary period is essential (this Dr. Worcester has had at Waltham), after which must come experience in the hospital wards, under most careful supervision and instruction from nurses

skilled as teachers, before the pupil is sent into the homes of the people.

Dr. Worcester in his training-school at Waltham has not considered hospital drill and experience the first essential, but has trained his nurses principally in the homes of the poor, where equipment and exact method are impossible.

The Massachusetts State Nurses' Association has refused to admit the Waltham nurses to membership, thus condemning Dr. Worcester's method of training.

Dr. Worcester is also opposed to the State Registration of Nurses, while the great nursing body of the United States stands united in favour of State Registration.

The Harvard College of Nursing is then to have at its head a man opposed to the highest ideals of the nursing profession, while the prestige of the great university behind him places him in a position of power in nursing affairs unmerited either by service or experience.

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That higher standards of preliminary and theoretical instruction can best be secured in a specially organised and equipped nursing college is a point that has been recognised by advanced teachers among nurses for a number of years, but that such instruction shall in any way take the place of a systematic hospital training is against the opinion of those most competent to judge.

The college course should be a preparation for hospital experience, and it is that hospital experience which is the essential feature of any nurse's education. Work in the homes of rich or poor should, we believe, always follow prolonged hospital training.

It is for the nurses of New England and the country at large to see to it that valuable time is not lost by following false and unwise methods of training in the new college at Harvard.

Public opinion is the most powerful factor for or against any movement of the age in which we live.

A New Nurses' League.

It is with pleasure we announce that owing to the initiative of Miss Dodds, Matron of the Bethnal Green Infirmary, the nurses of that training-school have now a League of their own. We congratulate Miss Dodds on a step which cannot fail to bring both pleasure and profit to the nurses concerned.

An Important Vacancy.

Miss Henrietta Wedgwood, R.R.C., has resigned the important position of Matron to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., a position which she has held for the past thirteen years. We learn that there will be keen competition for the vacant post, as several well-known Matrons intend to apply for it.

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