

a committee would naturally be composed of the principals of the affiliated training-schools. In order to take in all the hospitals in a large or populous State, the establishment of two or more such institutions might be necessary, but all would be organised on the same basis, and all examinations would be held at the same time all over the State. All diplomas would issue from the nursing institute and not from any one hospital.

"Broadly speaking, in arriving at a standard of training it would be necessary to decide upon the requirements for entrance and the length of the preliminary course and of the course of training, and the subjects required to be taught and practised, and the arrangement of the curriculum for the several years. Each central institute would provide a set of regular lectures and a course of instruction. The head of the institute might also under the direction of the central committee act as inspector of the several affiliated training-schools. The various hospitals would be arranged into groups in such a way that each group would provide a full course of training. The method of distributing the students to each of such groups would also have to be arranged. The Finance Committee would deal with endowments, scholarships, fees, lectures, and instructors' salaries, the pooling of the expenses, and the like. These and many other matters present problems which are of vital importance, and which must be satisfactorily dealt with before affiliation can attain even a measure of success. In the present paper they cannot be dealt with in detail.

"The advantages of a successful affiliation would be manifold. First and foremost, the establishment of the much to be desired standard could be brought about, and in all forms of hospitals the nursing would be uniform, this uniformity rendering State Registration comparatively easy to attain. Moreover, the sick in our hospitals and homes could feel assured of better nursing. The preliminary course would be assured to all students without additional cost to the individual hospital. The arrangement would also tend largely towards economy, since much repetition would be saved and the number of instructors and lecturers would be minimised. Being primarily educational, the course of training would attract a more uniformly desirable class of women. Again, the superintendents of the training-schools would be relieved of much clerical work, and saved many interruptions. They would individually be relieved of the selection and care of probationers, and would thus be enabled to systematise their time better and to spend more of it in the wards, where their powers of observation, teaching, and influence are of so much practical value.

"The whole aim of the central institute should be towards thoroughness and the production of quality rather than quantity. It should, therefore, in addition to the undergraduate education, provide post-graduate courses in general nursing and a special

course in every special form of nursing that is allied with medicine. All such courses must be thorough. Three years should be a sufficient time in which to cover the course in general training, and if a woman is to spend more than three years in learning to be a nurse, the extra time, over and above the three prescribed years, should be devoted to optional work and special training in some particular branch of nursing for which a student has shown a particular aptitude. At the present day in the world's work there is a general tendency towards co-operation—towards the formation of trusts if you will—and towards specialisation of a high order in all branches. For it stands to reason that after a thorough general groundwork has been laid, the individual who selects a particular branch from natural taste, inclination, and adaptability is bound to carry that branch to a higher degree of excellence and gain better results than is possible when the energy is diffused over a wide field. As in medicine, so in nursing, the specialist is bound to come more and more into evidence, and nursing work must naturally be subdivided. Already we find distinct specialisms in our midst—the district nurse, the Army nurse, the superintendent of the general hospital and training-school, the superintendent of the special hospital—for children, for contagious diseases, for obstetrics, for tuberculosis, for nervous diseases and insanity. Add to these the instructor in dietetics, the sanitary inspector, the school nurse, the masseuse, and we have already a goodly list that need special methods for their proper preparation, other than those that have formed a necessary part of the training in general nursing. But so far as the central institute is concerned, only those subjects that pertain primarily to the nursing of disease should find their place in the general curriculum. The specialists must fall into sub-divisions and groups, standing for certain objects. Thus district nursing includes more than the nursing of the sick poor; it deals with a branch of social economics in which the nursing itself takes a secondary place, the nurse serving as an instructor in the art of right living and the maintenance of health. Such a specialty, although it requires as a general basis the course in general nursing, calls for a knowledge of certain social conditions that could not possibly be treated properly during the ordinary course of training. Again, as regards the making of superintendents and instructors, only here and there do we meet with a woman who shows the natural executive ability to manage large affairs in a business-like way, or who possesses the faculty of imparting knowledge to others in a clear manner; and only those who can profit by them should have the larger and special opportunities for developing this natural gift.

"Nor is it necessary that provision for every form of teaching should be supplied by the centralised school, when by means of affiliation with institu-

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