

that of 'The Visiting Nurses' Association of Detroit,' it is with pleasure and profound satisfaction that I tell you it is an exception to this rule—a rule and practice that, I trust, may soon become obsolete. From the time of its organisation, seven years ago, until now it has always had professional nurses on its Executive Board. In their last annual report, just issued, official recognition and commendation of the value of the services rendered by these women appear as follows:—It speaks of the work of the various standing committees, and of the House Committee it says in part, 'The duties of this committee require time and attention that are not adequately represented in their brief and informal reports, and their work illustrates the dependence of the board upon the good sense and fidelity of its members.' Then comes the following: 'Another exponent of this kind of service is the Committee on Nurses' Work, with Mrs. L. E. Gretter as chairman. The report given at the monthly meeting may be the briefest, but it stands for entire familiarity with the practical work of the preceding four weeks. Emergencies have been met, substitutes provided, necessary medical supplies obtained through proper sources, charts received and inspected, and needed advice and encouragement given. In the absence of a paid superintendent the board should understand and recognise how much is due to the devoted service of this committee, and especially to its chairman. The value of having professional nurses as members of the active board is here apparent, and it should be noted that the Detroit Association is unique in this respect.' In the special report of auxiliary work, given in this same annual report, the work of the Farrand Training-School Alumnae Association is thus described:—

"Among these auxiliaries is the Farrand Training-School Alumnae Association, which has been represented from the first on this Executive Board by a delegate annually elected by the alumnae of the training-school and by their honorary president, Mrs. L. E. Gretter, principal of the Farrand Training-School, elected from the membership at large of this association. Since the beginning of this united work these two women have served continuously on the Nurses' Committee, and for three years the delegate from the Alumnae Association acted as secretary of this body. During a part of the time other members of the Executive Board have served on the Nurses' Committee with them, and the remainder of the time they have served alone. This committee has had charge of all matters pertaining to the nurses and to the nursing department. At their suggestion the different nurses of the staff have been sent, after a year's service, to other cities for field work and observation of all methods pertaining to district nursing. The first to be sent was Miss Sutherland, who went to the Nursing Settlement, New York City. The expenses of this trip were in

part met by the personal contributions and money collected by the efforts of this auxiliary. The following year Miss Jeanette Smith was sent to Chicago for a month, and almost the entire expense that time was met by this auxiliary. A year later Miss Aylesworth was sent to Boston, and this time the entire expenses were met by this auxiliary, together with quite a sum over, which they allowed to be used towards furnishing uniforms for the nurses. In addition to this they have annually contributed a sum ranging from 25 dols. to 50 dols., and usually it has been the latter amount.'

"Thus it will be seen that nurses have a part to perform, not only in the actual district nursing, but upon the Executive Boards, and in diffusing a correct knowledge of the work, its needs and importance, among the prosperous people whom they meet. In all these different ways nurses may lend their professional training to the furtherance of social and philanthropic effort, and an influence be wielded for good that shall be great beyond all computation. Let me illustrate the power of this influence. In the *individual* it may be compared to the tiny blade in a turbine engine, a blade no larger than a lady's little finger, small indeed—in the *aggregate* it far transcends the combined power represented in the innumerable blades in the engines of one of the greyhounds of the ocean. As in the turbine, there are the 'fixed' blades—those engaged in the practical work; and there are the 'moving' blades—those who lend their influence to the furtherance of the work, whether on the Executive Boards or among the rich and prosperous. The 'fixed' blades act as guides to deliver the steam with proper direction and velocity against the 'moving' blades. Thus the full power of the steam is utilised, and in a direct and continuous way. Through the temper and wisdom gained by our training we, as nurses, may become a mighty social dynamic, full of potential worth. In all this varied activity it is their quality as nurses that is of value and importance. They are as essential to that part of the work that guides and directs these efforts as they are to the field work. To alleviate without removing the cause will but prove an anæsthetic to the poor, only keeping them from realising their condition.

"To cabin, crib, confine such a power as is ours is a responsibility we have no wish to assume, and, I believe, one that associated workers in social and philanthropic effort dare not.

"The Present Time—youngest born of Eternity, child and heir of all Past Times, with their good and evil, and parent of all the Future—is ever a new Era to the thinking man. To know it, and what it bids us do, is ever the sum of knowledge for all of us."

The Council of the Royal Sanitary Institute has accepted the invitation to hold the annual congress and exhibition in Bristol in July of next year.

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