

they actually do, they may be too dependant on being shown everything; sisters and staff nurses may expect too much of those just out of the course, and think as they have been taught certain things that regular instruction by them in the wards is not necessary.

"There are also many difficulties, many disappointments; it is difficult, when Nurse A gets a sore throat, and Nurse B a poisoned finger, and Nurse C is telegraphed for to go home, and holidays have begun and everyone wants to go at once, to keep the probationers from being absorbed in the wards. It is also very disappointing when a probationer fails for one reason or another at the end of the course, but difficulties and disappointments do not spell failure. The greatest difficulty of all is the lack of funds: perhaps some day probationers will be able to lessen this by contributing something towards the cost of their training.

"For those who argue that it is better to put a new probationer straight into a ward and let her pick up her duties as she goes on, I would ask why should nursing be the only skilled work which requires no skilful teaching? Does the musician "pick up" technique, or the artist "pick up" some knowledge of perspective? Why then should a nurse do better with no regular system of instruction than with one? I would refer my readers to two most interesting papers on "Preparatory Instruction," in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for July 1st and 8th, written by Miss Nutting, an expert on the subject, who, after giving the system a fair trial, pronounced most unhesitatingly in its favour."

We learn that, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, though the authorities do not as yet see their way to organising a scheme for the post graduate instruction of nurses, yet that in the case of any nurses who received their training in the Infirmary and having left its service, desire to return for instruction in special work, or to brush up generally in hospital methods, an endeavour is made to meet them and to comply with their wishes as far as possible. This is an advantage which we are sure the graduates of the school will appreciate.

The eleventh anniversary of Miss J. F. Mayne's appointment to the Matronship of the County Infirmary, Limerick, having taken place this month, the occasion was availed of to make her a presentation, which took the form of a valuable gold watch and chain. Miss Mayne received her training at Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, and her friends in that institution joined in the presentation. The function took place at Mountjoy Private Hospital, Mountjoy Square, Dublin. Miss Kelly, Lady Superintendent of Dr. Steevens' Hospital, in presenting the gift, referred to Miss Mayne's high professional attainments, and to her popularity with

her patients and co-workers. The watch bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Miss J. F. Mayne by warm admirers of her character and ability as Matron, and one who deserves the regard and esteem of the nursing world." Miss Mayne is a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and a cordial supporter of the principle of State Registration for nurses.

Miss S. May Smith, of Troy, New York, is enthusiastic in her belief in the capacity of the coloured nurse. Writing in a contemporary she says in part:—"Considerable progress has been made in all branches of knowledge during the last half of the preceding century. It is therefore natural to suppose that a race or nation advancing in education and culture would be influenced by the spirit of the age. So it has been with the coloured trained nurse, whose training and education prepare her not only to promote the health of those on whom she is called to minister, but also in her care for the sick, wounded, and dying, to bring cheer and sunshine into the homes and hearts of those around her.

Taking the training-school for nurses of the Freedmen's Hospital as an example of the institutions from which many coloured trained nurses have been graduated, the character and standing of the school may be estimated by the fact that it is registered in the State of New York under the laws regulating the state educational department, so that nurses graduating from this school can now register and practise their profession in the great Empire State without going through an examination.

The School Alumnae are in membership with the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States. The education of the coloured trained nurse is recognised by state authorities as being equal to that of nurses who have graduated from other recognised schools. This equality has been singularly demonstrated by skilled and eminent practitioners.

To the coloured trained nurse whose naturally sympathetic disposition, whose willingness to do for others, whose patience and hopefulness, are qualities which make her particularly adapted to the sick-room, the profession of nursing opens up a splendid sphere of usefulness. She is naturally of a cheerful disposition in the grave stages of disease, and her peculiar hopefulness and tender solicitude for her patient makes her very helpful.

Wherever the coloured trained nurse has been employed she has performed her duty conscientiously, rendering the best service it is possible for human hands and hearts to give; her progress in this sphere of usefulness has been, and still is continuous and upward, directed toward the highest attainment of proficiency and active usefulness in her chosen profession.

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