recognised that the abolishment of the non-pay-
ment system in any school turns back into the 
hospital treasury all of these may be supplied and still leave a good 
more is needed for those training-schools as 
very large sum of money 
of the training-school. Every penny of it and 
12,000 dollars a year up-would be releaeed for 
in place of this allowance another assistant, scholar-
ships, uniforms." Those who have good reason to 
know from experience about this will tell you that 
all of those may be supplied and still leave a good 
the appropriation untouched. Can it be 
be better utilised than in improved methods of instruc-
tion, such, for instance, as a preliminary course? 
Just let us face here the question which has been 
asked before, and may not unlikely be asked again, 
as to whether or not such a course can or should be 
introduce generally into training-schools. Let me 
here state my opinion with emphasis. I do not think 
it can. But that is no reason why it should not be 
adopted by those schools which regard it as a good 
measure, are willing to do the work, and able, even 
with effort, to meet the expense. To take any 
of this and similar improvements, to say 
that because all schools cannot now adopt this 
method none of them should, is putting a premium 
upon mediocrity. Logically carried out, it would 
place our schools at the level of the lowest, prevent 
all progress, make useless every ideal. This same 
destructive spirit has met at different periods of 
history some of the most valuable and important 
reforms ever undertaken. A school should do what 
It can, the very best that it is able. If preparatory 
teaching is to become a recognised permanent feature of our system of instruction, the way will open by 
which it may be provided for those smaller schools of 
much excellence of work and ideals but of limited 
means and opportunity, or for those groups of 
affiliated schools which are clearly the next develop-
ment in nursing. And it will come when it does 
because of the pioneer work of the larger schools 
willimg to go through the periods of doubt and diffi-
culty, which are the inevitable accompaniment of 
"enterprises of great pith and moment."

It is my hope that as many hospital training-
schools as can see their way to preparatory teaching 
will adopt it; that others not able or not desiring 
to do this will co-operate to the fullest degree with 
such technical schools or other institutions as may 
be available; that every possible test will be made 
of the value and efficacy of this method; that 
groups of affiliated schools will try the experiment 
of establishing central preparatory schools of their 
own, ultimately, in every State. By that date we 
shall have ceased to call them preparatory schools 
and shall call them what they will be, schools of 
practically and theoretically, where the theory 
and principles of nursing are taught, but where 
practical training and experience in nursing in all its 
branches may be supplied to the pupils through those 
hospitals, one or many, which are now struggling 
with such inadequate means to carry on the educa-
tional work of training-schools. Preparatory in-
struction points the way, and has thus performed 
its mission. We should realise this, however; if 
the preparatory work that has been done stopped in 
every school at this moment, it still would have 
been well worth all the effort that has been made in 
the effect it has had upon the education of nurses, 
and particularly upon the standards and require-
ments for admission to training-schools. In the 
constructive stage of our work we can well take 
heed of the means by which improvements have 
been effected in other branches of education, re-
membering that the objects of educational reform 
are from beginning to end quite the same every-
where, to prepare the individual not only for better 
serve, but for a better life.

The Affiliation of the Smaller 
and Special Hospitals for 
Training Purposes.*

By Miss Helen Todd, 
Matron of the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth

MADAM PRESIDENT, LADIES.—Our subject this 
evening is one of great importance to all those 
engaged in the education of nurses, and as the views 
and opinions of members of this Council cannot fail 
to be both interesting and instructive, I shall only 
speak very briefly, merely suggesting a few points 
which may serve for guidance in the discussion 
which is to follow.

For the sake of convenience we may consider our 
subject under the following heads:—
1. The present state of things as regards the so-
called training of nurses in small general and special 
hospitals.
2. The effect which State Registration will have 
upon these Institutions if their nursing arrange-
ments continue as at present.
3. What is meant by affiliation.
4. What classes of Institutions should affiliate.
5. What is the result of such a movement and its possi-

bles in the future.
6. And, lastly, is it practicable?

Every Superintendent of Nursing Associations, 
whether public or private, is well aware that a very 
 enormous percentage of nurses applying for 
vacancies have worked only in small hospitals or 
those devoted to special diseases (48.61 per cent. 
out of 609 applications in one year). As Matron of 

* Read before the Matrons' Council, London, June, 
1905.