

THE HISTORY OF THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRESS.

The second part of the last Session of the Conference was devoted to this most important subject.

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE
BRITISH NURSING PRESS.
By MISS MARY BURR.

Collaborator.

Miss Burr's paper was of the greatest importance, proving how essential it is to nurses to have an organ in the press under professional control, and how powerless they are without one. Nowhere is this more evident than in the United Kingdom, where, for the last twenty years, the nursing profession has suffered from the misrepresentations of the commercial nursing press in its attempts to "lasso" it. As we propose to print Miss Burr's paper in full at an early date, it is unnecessary now to say more than that it was a lucid and courageous exposition of conditions with which Miss Burr is thoroughly well acquainted.

"THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING."

By MISS M. E. P. DAVIS.

Business Manager.

Miss Davis in this paper contributed to the Conference said that at the second Annual Convention of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, held in 1896 at Boston at the many informal discussions which took place between groups of members, the necessity for an organ to represent fully *Nursing Movements and Progress from Nurses' View-points* was insistently voiced, until it took hold of the inner consciousness of the women who eventually carried the scheme through.

At the third Annual Convention of the Superintendents, a Committee was appointed to organise the Nurses' National Associated Alumnae, and as the establishment of a Nurses' Journal was recognised as a movement of National significance the question was left by the Superintendents' Society to be one of the primary issues of this more representative body.

At the first Convention of the Nurses' National Associated Alumnae Society, a Committee on Periodicals was appointed, which was enlarged in 1899, and consisted of Mrs. Robb, and the Misses Nutting, Palmer, Stevenson, Fulmer, and Davis. This continued with but little change as an active managing body until the *American Journal of Nursing Company* was incorporated.

Hard work, invincible courage, enthusiastic faith in themselves, in the loyalty of the profession, and the urgent demand for an organ that would express the highest and best, unbiassed by commercial considerations, overcame every obstacle, even the two most formidable; the comparative ignorance among the profession of methods journalistic, and the lack of funds available in the

treasury of the Associated Alumnae with which to finance the undertaking. No matter what plan was discussed, this lack of funds was a blank wall that militated against that liberty and independence which were felt to be indispensable.

The only way was found to be for individual nurses to form a Stock Company, the business to be carried on fraternally, each doing what she could, only the profession being allowed to invest in shares. The pioneers were women of ideas, executive ability, and capacity for detail work, with the grim determination of those who having put their hands to the plough look not back, all equally enthused with one ideal. In such an atmosphere failure was not to be thought of, and therefore not possible.

At the end of the first year the Committee found that so far as finances were concerned the future of the Journal was no longer a serious problem. But, says Miss Davis, the lessons that the struggle taught are basic, the impetus given to nursing affairs monumental, because never again can they be inoperative. The courageous attitude of mind undismayed, and undaunted in the face of untried conditions, the unity of purpose which is irresistible, the submergency of the personality into the personnel with that faith and abandon that compels success, were the groundwork of this enterprise.

"THE NURSES' JOURNAL OF THE PACIFIC COAST."

By MISS GENEVIEVE COOKE,

Editor.

A most interesting Report was presented by Miss Cooke of the history of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*. In February, 1904, the Californian State Nurses' Association was incorporated and "ready for real business." In the spring of the same year the advantages to the Association of a paper of its own were considered, and in June Miss Cooke was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Publication to get out the Annual Report. The Committee became so enthusiastic that before this Report was ready for the printer it was decided to launch it in the form of a magazine, and, encouraged by the success attained, it was subsequently decided to publish a quarterly under the title, *The Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*.

The outlook for the Journal was a bright one, when, like the plans of thousands of other people, it received more than "a rude shock" on the morning of April 18th, 1906. The home of the Journal was amongst those doomed to be destroyed by the great conflagration. Miss Cooke graphically described how, during the earthquake, when urged to think what she specially wanted to save, she thought of the property of the Journal in her possession, and how she snatched from a drawer the copy on hand, then the advertising contracts, the official stamp, the bank and cheque books, the card index file containing the names of subscribers, and copies of the several issues of the Journal.

From January of the present year the Journal

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