

ideas, those of executive ability, those with the homely but indispensable capacity for detail work, and those with the grim determination that, having put their hands to the plough, they would not look back, all equally enthused with the one ideal.

In such an atmosphere failure was not thought of; and, therefore, not possible.

The writer having consented to become chairman of the Committee, an active campaign was begun. Individual nurses and Alumnae Societies were communicated with. Volunteer aid for all departments (literary, financial, etc.) from every direction flowed in. Every appeal was promptly recognised, the result being the sale of twenty-four shares of stock to Alumnae Societies and individual nurses, with encouraging promises and a list of paid up subscribers to the prospective journal large enough to warrant the well-known publishing firm of J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., in assuming the manufacturing, mailing, etc., together with a certain amount of the business management, for the Associated Alumnae.

The choice of the Editor in Chief and staff, while of no small importance at the outset, was yet felt to be a more vital factor in its future healthful, normal development, and its ultimate stable maintenance. It requires but a glance at its personnel to confirm the wisdom of the choice then made. By their untiring devoted efforts on October, 1900, the *American Journal of Nursing* made its first appearance, and immediately took rank as an authority on nursing affairs.

As I have remarked, all this business had been carried on by the Committee "appointed to act" by the Associated Alumnae, itself not incorporated for business purposes, and therefore, in the eye of the law irresponsible.

It had worked smoothly enough until we came in contact with United States law, or rather a detail of that law. When the first issue was ready for distribution the postal authorities in Philadelphia refused to admit it as second class matter unless a better guarantee than the Associated Alumnae or a Committee appointed thereby, could be furnished.

As there was no time to consult or confer, the writer and Editor-in-Chief came to the rescue, the authorities being willing to accept them as vouchers, and made themselves responsible for the respectability, proper conduct, and general good behaviour of the Journal.

This responsibility continued to be so carried till the incorporation of the *American Journal of Nursing* Company, under the laws of the State of New York, October, 1902, when the

ownership was legally transferred to the Associated Alumnae. At the end of the year, when the books were balanced, the Committee made the phenomenal discovery that they had a surplus in the treasury at the publishers instead of the formidable deficit they were taught to expect; that their reserve fund of sold and unsold shares was practically intact, and that so far as finances were concerned, the future of the Journal was no longer a serious problem. In fact, there were no longer any serious problems connected with the enterprise.

But the lessons that the struggle taught are basic, and the impetus in nursing affairs given 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 submerging of the personality into the personnel and that faith and abandon that compels success, were the groundwork of this enterprise.

The standards set and fearlessly maintained incessantly require the constructive, uplifting qualities of self-reliance, self-control, self-direction, self-effacement, self-sacrifice, and united devotion for the common good; loyalty to principle for the help, enlightenment, and educating of the individual; organisation and legal recognition for the protection and safeguarding of the whole; this is the superstructure of the *American Journal of Nursing*.

Plague, Cholera and Typhoid.

From the time of the appointment of the nurses of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, to that when they sail for India, usually about four months elapses, and, during this time they are required to be inoculated (on separate occasions) with plague, cholera, and typhoid. No wonder that a nurse whom we know looked peaky and ill shortly before she sailed. It would be interesting to know how long immunisation these inoculations are supposed to give, and whether the nurses have to be inoculated at intervals during their residence in India.

Registration in a Hutshell.

The advantages accruing from State Registration are threefold. 1. Raising the standard of the training schools. 2. Placing nursing on a professional basis. 3. Protection of the public.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)