

stimulus, protection, and progress—is also noted. “Mrs. Wardroper regarded the movement as dangerous and subversive of proper standards, and opposed it with all her power.”

Amongst those who “regarded with alarm the dangerous tendency to communicate professional knowledge of a technical sort to the nurse” was Dr. La Garde, who, in a lecture on “Nursing Sisterhoods and Hospital Schools for Nurses,” summed up a nurse’s proper standing as follows:—

“A nurse is a confidential servant; but still only a servant. She should be middle-aged when she begins nursing, and if somewhat tamed by marriage and the troubles of a family so much the better.”

The chapter on “Miss Nightingale’s Writings” should be carefully studied. Her views as to training and hygiene are luminous. As is well known, she is not in sympathy with the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and expressed her views on this subject in a paper contributed to the Nursing Section of the Congress on Hospitals and Nursing at the World’s Fair, Chicago. Referring to this the authors say:—“And so, through this impressive address runs an appeal to the nurses of America not to do this thing which they have done, and have had to do, in order to strengthen the basis of sound hospital training against the sapping of teaching by correspondence, and by the elimination of all real work.”

“When this paper was read before the American nurses none of them could have foreseen that ten years after they had heard it they would be steadfastly and unitedly handed together against sham in nursing education. That in so doing they have done what Miss Nightingale herself would have done, and have kept before them her own standard, cannot be doubted; that in so doing they have taken a road which she believes to be astray, the road of State protection for a fixed basis of requirement has been inevitable, and in this necessary divergence lies much that is to be deplored, for it has meant an apparent disregard of the advice of one whose advancing years and honour call for all respect and consideration.”

#### THE TREATY OF GENEVA.

How many nurses know the history of the Red Cross movement? They now have an opportunity of studying the story of its foundation by that greatest of humanitarians, Henri Dunant. Others before him had proclaimed the duty of caring for wounded foes as well as friends, notably Haldora of Iceland, a “fair woman” with “a lovely mind,” who lived about 1,000 A.D. But it is the great-hearted Dunant who has impressed the civilised world with this duty, and has made Geneva—formerly renowned chiefly for its connection with Calvin, whose grim, unlovely, and un-Christ-like teaching has caused so much unnecessary suffering in the world—the place from which has emanated the most beneficent movement ever conceived for the benefit of humanity.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF NURSING IN AMERICA.

The story of the development of nursing in America is one which must be read at length; briefly, it should be noted that “in the very dawn of history the Aztecs and Incas had built their hos-

pital and taken care of their sick,” but modern nursing was first introduced into Bellevue Hospital, New York; the Newhaven Hospital and the Massachusetts General in 1873; the Blockley Almshouse (where report says that Evangeline found Gabriel), then known as the Philadelphia Hospital, was reformed under Miss Alice Fisher in 1884.

The difficulty at Bellevue, where the Committee had agreed to open the training school on May 1st, was to find a superintendent. A house was taken and pupils invited to apply, but the Committee, with much anxiety, saw the first of May approaching and still no suitable person was found.

A member of the Committee, in a despondent mood, at this time expressed her anxiety to another, who replied: “I have such faith in this work, and I have prayed so for it, that I shall have that Superintendent’s bed made, being sure that she will come to occupy it.” She came a few days later in the person of Sister Helen, of the All Saints’ Community, who had received her training and proved herself an effective administrator at University College Hospital, London. The authors say that “the indebtedness of Bellevue, and through it of the nursing profession in the United States, to Sister Helen can hardly be too warmly acknowledged.”

It is interesting to record that the original scheme for the training school at Bellevue made by the Hospitals’ Committee of the State Charities Aid Association in 1872 contained the following clause. “As the work advances we hope to establish a college for the training of nurses which will receive a charter from the State, and become a recognised institution of the country.”

#### CONCLUSION.

In concluding this delightful history the writers quote a pamphlet written by Mrs. Hobson, a member of the Bellevue Hospital Committee in 1876. She urges “all women engaged in hospitals and training schools to bear in mind that their greatest success will lie in keeping up the standard of their work, as to the character and tone of the direction, and the quality of the instruction given, at its highest possible point. . . .

“Doubtless there will be obstacles to encounter, but these should only nerve to steadier effort, for it is well to remember that any obstacle, either thoughtlessly or maliciously thrust in the way of women of culture who undertake offices of charity in public institutions is a blow direct, not so much against them, as against the helpless and suffering classes of society of whom they are the natural guardians and consolers.”

For the future the education of no nurse can be regarded as complete until she has read and absorbed the history of her profession, which has now, for the first time, been gathered together in the book which has been cursorily and inadequately reviewed in these columns.

As one turns with regret the last leaf of the second volume one remembers with joy that Miss Nutting and Miss Dock have promised us a third, dealing with the history of the last thirty-six years. The book is fascinating. It is great. It is ours.

Let us give thanks.

M. B

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)