

It was necessary for nurses who took up school nursing to be exceedingly well trained. They had to watch for the early symptoms of disease, and must, therefore, have experience in every branch, not only in medical and surgical nursing, but in fever nursing, and also, if possible, they should have had experience of ophthalmic nursing. She therefore maintained that school nursing afforded the greatest possible scope for highly trained nurses on leaving hospital.

MISS DELANO said she would like to say a word in regard to the summer work in the New York schools. At the close of the year the New York staff of School Nurses, numbering about 200, was sent into the homes of the poor to teach the mothers the care of their babies, and they were getting into the way of gauging the success of the work by studying the statistics of infantile mortality. Only the previous day she had heard from New York, and the most interesting item of news was a comparison of the number of babies who died there in a given month with the mortality in the same month of last year. She found that only half as many had died this year as in the corresponding month last year.

Mrs. HAMPTON ROBB said that in listening to the papers, both on the previous day and that morning, it seemed to her that the key-note struck had been that of education. They had heard so much of the education of the nurse. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had claimed that private nursing required the most highly educated women. She was answered that such women should remain in hospital and teach the probationers. Then that morning Miss Böge demanded that such women should be district nurses, and now Miss Pearse had come to say that these nurses must be in the schools. It seemed, therefore, very evident what kind of women were required as nurses—they were the well educated ones.

It was well to realise the great evil we were fighting amongst the people with whom we were working. It was the great evil of ignorance, and no stone should be left unturned to blot out this sin from amongst us—the sin of ignorance from amongst the peoples of our countries. It seemed to her that that could be best accomplished through the schools, and when Miss Pearse emphasised cleanliness as the foundation of so much, and another speaker that "thoroughness" should be our watchword, then it seemed to her that our methods, so far, were rather superficial, and that we should do everything in our power to make thoroughness possible.

Mrs. Robb also advocated that lavatories should be provided in the schools, giving the children the opportunity of washing, so that they might be taught practically the principle of cleanliness which underlay the prevention of disease. She did not think we should progress very far till this was done.

Then it did not follow that because a boy or girl had to leave school at an early age, say 10, 12, or 14 years of age, to earn a living, that their education should necessarily stop. Education should begin at birth and end at the grave, and all

through life we should endeavour to teach the principle of right living.

MISS NEWTON, of Ipswich, said that she was one of three Matrons who had come up from a little provincial town in the east of England, who had been sent by their committees, which were paying their expenses. In a short time she and her colleagues would meet their committees, who would ask them what they had learned. They were all filled with admiration for that wonderful syllabus, which had come from America, showing the social work which followed after the hospital had done its part, and they would very much like to obtain copies of that splendid syllabus so that they might take them home to that little town in Suffolk to show their committees something of what they had learned. She hoped that the same method might be adopted in this country.

MISS L. L. DOOK said that with regard to the new branches of nursing now being opened up she hoped that the older nurses would make them known to the younger ones so that they might prepare themselves for this social work. In the settlement where she lived she received daily and weekly dozens, and even hundreds of letters asking for nurses who would take up positions on these lines, yet seven-tenths of those applications had to be refused because there were no nurses available who had prepared themselves for this class of work. New calls were coming every day. She thought that the reason why nurses could not take these positions was that they had allowed themselves to get into a rut, and that all these positions called for flexible minds, for a good outfit of social knowledge, and for planning and organising ability. The applicants for nurses would constantly say: "We do not ourselves know just how this work had best be conducted. We want a woman who will be able to tell us what to do, and to plan it out." She did not hesitate to prophesy that in 25 years time more nurses would be engaged on preventive and social work than in private nursing, and she wanted to urge upon them all to prepare for themselves for new developments.

MISS SNIVELY urged the preparation of the heart. She did not wish in any way to undervalue the necessary professional education, but she felt that if there were the true preparation of the heart also that there would not be such a lack of workers as had been the case during the last few years.

Mrs. HAMPTON ROBB said that before the Session closed she would like the privilege of thanking Lady Helen Munro Ferguson for her inspiring and uplifting address. It was such a relief from the depressing remarks to which they had listened from one speaker on the previous morning, but that might be expected because a woman certainly had what a man lacked, *i.e.*, the sixth sense—what they were accustomed to hear called "woman's instinct," but which was really woman's finer perception. She had great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the President of the Session for her speech.

MISS ISLA STEWART cordially seconded what Mrs. Robb had said. Speaking from the standpoint

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