

## Professional Review.

### THE REPORTS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS, AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF NURSES.

A most interesting annual volume is always the Report of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, the fifteenth number of which is now issued. It has an added interest this year, as it includes for the first time the Report of the Annual Meeting of the American Federation of Nurses, in which the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States is affiliated with the Superintendents' Society. It will be remembered that Miss A. W. Goodrich, R.N., Superintendent of the Training School of Bellevue and the Allied Hospitals, New York, represented the Federation at the International Congress of Nurses in London last year.

Mrs. Hampton Robb, who, as President, presided at the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Superintendents' Society, struck the right note when she said:—"The main reason for our dropping the routine of our daily work, and travelling long distances annually, is to confer together face to face over this serious business of the making of the trained nurse. Nor can any programme that may appear in print ever wholly convey just all that these meetings, or a given subject in them, may hold for us; to understand one must read between the lines; each must bring her contribution of interest, experience, and originality, and fearlessly say what she thinks. The needs and conditions of this peculiar work demand this kind of conference, and I think at no time in the existence of Training Schools has the demand been so great as at present."

One most interesting feature of the Superintendents' meetings is always the presentation of the Reports of the various Committees. First, Miss Alline, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report, showing a substantial balance in hand. Miss M. A. Nutting, that of the Committee on Education, which, in accordance with the request of the last Annual Convention, had prepared an outline of classes in Home Nursing, suitable for the use of the Red Cross in its various branches; Miss Goodrich, Chairman of the Committee on Hospital Economics, presented its report on the Course at Teachers' College; amongst the instruction offered to students during the past year were Lectures on Poverty and Relief by Dr. Divine, on The Industrial Family by Mrs. Simkhowitch, on Practical Economics by Professor Moore, on Public Health by Miss Lilian Wald, on Hospital Administration by Dr. Irving Fisher, and on Hospital Accounts and Book-keeping by Dr. Irving Fisher.

The Report of the Committee on Closer Union of Nursing Societies was presented by Miss Gladwin. Many of those communicated with thought it would be a good plan to try for a few years to have the annual meetings in the same place, and in the same week. The ensuing economy of time, energy, strength, and money would mean larger and more representative meetings.

A short paper on "Training School Commit-

tees" was read by Miss Erdman, who urged that such a committee is an important factor in the government of the School at the present day. She said: "As the Training School exists primarily for the comfort and welfare of the patients, it but emphasises the fact that it must be considered an institution of education for young women as nurses. Fortunate is the Superintendent, therefore, that has educators of the past or present represented on the Committee. They will be in sympathy with her efforts to provide good education and training, and will co-operate and respond readily with intelligent action in all such matters."

The expert opinions and experience embodied in these reports, and subsequently printed, are most valuable, not only to the Superintendents' Society in America, but to the nursing world at large. They also demonstrate the activity and influence of the Society.

The papers presented at the various sessions were full of practical wisdom. Thus, in the discussion in the paper on "Training for Obstetrical Nursing," presented by Miss Martha M. Russell, R.N., Superintendent of the Sloane Maternity Hospital, Mrs. Lounsberry spoke as follows:—"In West Virginia obstetrical nursing had become quite a problem. The nurses there say 'We cannot do it.' They say one case interferes with another; that while they are waiting for this one case they must let another one go. I think the thing to do is to impress upon our pupils the fact that they are business women, and they should take what comes into their hands, and as it comes. The type-writer does not turn down a letter because it is long, or because she wrote one before, or wrote sixty yesterday. A clerk waits on a tiresome customer as well as on a pleasant one. These obstetrical cases ought to be considered from a business point of view, and our likes and dislikes put entirely out of the way."

Miss Elsie M. Lawler, R.N., of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, in a paper on "The Nursing of Nervous Diseases," quotes Dr. Llewellyn Barker's opinion that the nurse should not be too intimate. Many of these patients come from the educated classes, and intellectual equality, or even superiority, on the part of the nurse, if not essential, is highly desirable. So much is expected of the nurse in the teaching, apart from the actual physical care of these patients, that to achieve success she must possess or acquire a certain skill or tact for the work. She mentions that the care of the nervous patient is very taxing, and the nurse must be in good condition physically and mentally. Rest and recreation are necessary in any branch of our work, but particularly so for the nurses taking care of the mentally disturbed. We cannot be "cheerful and firm," and "fight over and over again the same fight" day after day if physically tired.

Miss Laura A. Beecroft, Superintendent of Nurses, Minnequa Hospital, Pueblo, in a paper on "Ethics to be Observed Between Training Schools," defined ethics as "the science of human duty." Other valuable papers dealt with "Nursing of Diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat," "Preparation for Institutional Work," and for "Private Duty."

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