

progress in education is called for and much is being done. Every country has a progressive and a reactionary party, in nursing as well as in other affairs. The latter in every country resists the progress of women in general, resists education in particular as being the *sine qua non* of progress. Our national journals voice and express the progressive demands in a way that no smaller or local journal can do. They buffet with the enemy and are exposed to his attacks and counter attacks. In a word, our national journals are our champions who are out in the arena fighting our battles for us, taking risks, pushing the way open, standing for the economic and educational conditions that are highest and most ideal. They voice the inarticulate masses of nurses who are too closely absorbed in the care of the sick to speak for themselves or to watch their own interests. Each such nurse, therefore, should feel that, while she is on duty behind closed doors, her national journal is doing sentry duty, as it were, for her, out in the great market place of the world, where selfish private interests are ever seeking to reduce the status of working woman to a more degraded level. Every nurse, should feel it her duty to herself, and to her professional standards, to help support the journal that represents her in that wide public where she cannot represent herself, and that protects her educational and social status when she is herself too busy or too weary, to be vigilant about things of so general a nature. To do this is a simple matter of self-protection: it is like keeping up an accident insurance. We do this by subscribing individually to our defensive organs, our nursing journals. Now, if there are opposition journals that advocate reactionary principles, aimed at our degradation as women and as self-supporting citizens, and if we subscribe to these, we do just as foolish a thing as a nation would do if it supplied its foe with ammunition, or a householder who would give the burglar his pass key. It is surprising how seldom nurses realise that by contributing their money to opposition papers they strengthen the very party against which they find themselves struggling. It is said, however, that opposition is good for us. This is true, but we need not pay for this benefit. Let us loyally encourage and support our own faithful scouts and sentries, our official, professional, independent, ethical, and indispensable nursing press.

A WELCOME NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

The New Year has brought a welcome gift to some half a million of London householders, in the shape of the announcement by the Gas Light and Coke Company of a further reduction in the price of gas. This time last year the Company reduced its price from 2s. 10d. to 2s. 9d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and now a further drop to 2s. 8d. is announced—making a total reduction of 4d. per 1,000 feet in the past five years. In view of the large and growing volume of testimony from medical and scientific men to the fact that a properly designed gas fire, properly fixed and intelligently used, is not only not less, but is actually more hygienic than a coal fire (in which unpurified gas is burnt), it is not surprising that the use of gas fires is extending.

Professional Review.

VISITING NURSING IN THE UNITED STATES.

A most useful and interesting book on "Visiting Nursing in the United States," by Miss Yssabella Waters, of the Nurses' Settlement, Henry Street, New York City, is published by the Charities Publication Committee, 105, East 22nd Street, New York. Part I. contains chapters on the history, principles, organisation, and methods of administration. Part II., a Directory of the organisations employing trained visiting nurses, and appended are some useful tables—(1) a list of organisations arranged alphabetically by States and towns giving details as to affiliation, training, hours of duty, classes of cases attended, and salaries; (2) showing the growth of visiting nursing in the United States from 1874; (3) the number of associations and of visiting nurses in each State—New York State alone has 108 associations, and 458 visiting nurses, and Pennsylvania comes second with 119 associations, and 168 visiting nurses; (4) the municipalities employing visiting nurses for tuberculosis patients, the State Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania alone employs 91, and the Department of Health, New York City, 24; (5) the Municipalities employing Public School Nurses, and here the Department of Health of New York City is easily ahead with 141 school nurses.

The frontispiece of the book is a map showing the location of the Visiting Nurse Associations in the United States, and if we take a fairly straight line from the State of Minnesota to the west of Lake Superior in the North to the Gulf of Mexico we shall find nearly all east of that line.

PRINCIPLES.

The chapter on "Principles" is very interesting, and shows clearly the need for a high grade of worker in this branch of nursing service. We read: "The requirements of the visiting nurse are not only practical and professional, but in a large measure spiritual. Purity of motives, integrity of work, and broad conceptions of duty to mankind, are for her not remote ideals, but necessary qualities in satisfactorily carrying out the daily routine."

ECONOMY OF VISITING NURSING.

"In addition to the humanitarian and social reasons for urging adequate nursing of people in their homes, is the important one of the economy to the community in thus caring for the sick. The available space in hospitals is entirely inadequate for meeting the demands of all who need nursing care. Certain acute and chronic cases do well at home under proper conditions, while many patients cannot or will not go to the hospitals. The costly hospital space may well be reserved then for those who need it urgently."

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE NURSE.

"The physicians have not always given the visiting nurse immediate co-operation. In her experience she is repeating the history of the struggles of the women who first tried to gain recognition of their value and place in the hospitals. Some physicians have never been associated in their practice with the professional nurse; therefore, they are unaccustomed to her use, but the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)