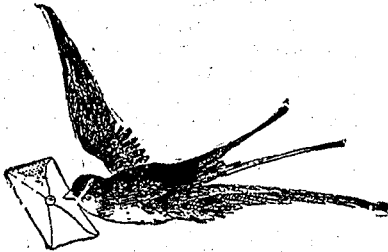


Our Foreign Letter.

FROM NEW YORK.



DEAR EDITOR,

Perhaps a little nursing gossip will not come amiss to your pages in the midst of all the more strenuous

things you are deep in. I have not seen much of hospitals this winter because of absorption in woman suffrage work, but the other evening I found myself giving a talk on the Page Bill to the nurses at Bellevue, my old alma mater. I was greatly struck by the vast growth there; you remember Bellevue? For one thing, the school for men nurses has been discontinued. One trouble and vexation after another has attended it for some time past; there have been newspaper sensations and rumours, and finally, with the acquiescence of Mr. D. O. Mills, who had originally given the building in which the men's school was housed, it was decided to give up the school and replace the men students in the wards by women. This is rapidly being done, and now only a few men are completing their course. They will receive their diplomas and then their places will be taken by women pupils. In the men's wards, the training school will try to train some good orderlies.

This may be regarded as a failure for men as nurses, for in this school, as you know, the experiment has been made with the utmost care and goodwill. And there have been some excellent men, but not enough, and the best usually went on to medicine. The doctors were dissatisfied, and ward housekeeping was not good. Another thing that I found interesting was the composite character of the training school. For some time there has been a post graduate course of six months there—that is, a regular course for women who had taken their certificates in some other hospital, and this is still flourishing, but further there are now in large numbers what they call "affiliated pupils"; that is, women who are still in training in some other place, but who are sent by their training schools to Bellevue for certain branches not available in the affiliating hospital. It has long been usual for our hospitals to send their pupils thus for obstetrics, but at Bellevue they come for all sorts of services, principally children and medical work. Miss Noyes, the Superintendent of Nurses, who followed Miss Goodrich, is a Johns Hopkins woman, and most able and admirable. She told me that the school numbers now about three hundred and fifty, of whom only one hundred and twenty are Bellevue probationers. The rest, after excluding a large number of permanent paid head nurses, are all either post-graduate or affiliated pupils. The former come from all over the world; the latter, from the states near by, the most distant being Maine, and the Dis-

trict of Columbia. This affiliation is the result of State Registration, and the general impetus it has given to a uniform, all-round training. In every state where registration exists efforts are being made in concert between hospitals to agree on a general plan of training, or, as the expression is, a uniform minimum. The new Bellevue is going to be very magnificent and perfect, but I did not have time to go into the one completed pavilion.

You will be interested to hear that Miss Linda Richards, whose retirement was announced some time ago, has gone back to work. Leisure was too dull for her, and an urgent plea from a hospital for the insane, where she had once been, found her back like an old warhorse at the sound of the trumpet. She will only be happy if she dies in harness, and as her only handicap is a lameness, her splendid head and heart being as good as ever, I think we shall hear no more of her retirement. She is preparing her reminiscences, but has not completed the book.

Miss Drown, however, has definitely retired. She is frail, and not long ago went through a serious illness. Miss Irene Sutcliffe, who sent so many splendid women out from the New York Hospital, and whose health failed utterly there, has grown quite strong since laying off the burden, and she is now abroad.

Two charming little Irish nurses whom I met in Dublin have come to New York to try their fortunes, Miss A. Brennan and Miss Kate Duggan. Each has a sister resident here, and both have gone into private duty and seem well and happy.

So many Johns Hopkins nurses are in New York that yesterday Miss Waters had a tea for them all at the Settlement. One is in charge of the new hospital attached to the Rockefeller Institute. It is another such hospital as that connected with the Pasteur Institute, only such patients being taken as belong in the class of infections being studied at the time.

I think I have written to you that our obnoxious prostitution law has been declared in so far unconstitutional, that the medical inspections in court have been stopped. We feel very happy over this victory, which was gained by a *woman lawyer*. Is it not a blessing that we have them? We hear, also, that the respectable supporters of this clause are weakening in their support, discouraged by the intense and widespread public indignation. There is now a general demand for the Board of Health to make venereal diseases reportable; this does not at all mean that it will arbitrarily isolate all cases. I know that in England abolitionists fear "notification" as just another form of regulation, but it will not be so here. A proof that the Board of Health ought to make venereal diseases reportable is that all regulationists, debauchees, and men of low standards generally, would rather have anything else adopted as a policy. It is the last thing they want to see done.

I am glad to tell you that Putnam's publishing house has agreed to publish the Third Volume of Nursing History at its own expense. This is almost better luck than I had hoped for, and though the terms are not quite so wonderful as those offered

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