

call of the American Board of Missions. The school at Kyoto was organised with the usual two years' course.

"Experience soon proved that the little Japanese women would make excellent nurses. Among the many national qualifications which they possess, one of the most valuable is their wonderful patience, which seems to have been instilled into their very being. Always cheerful and courteous, they win their way where they could not enforce it. They have the ability to copy perfectly, which enables them to profit rapidly by practical instruction." The first Japanese nurses gained their diplomas in June, 1888.

After some experience in charge of the Philadelphia Visiting Nurses' Society, Miss Richards' chief interest of later years has been the care of the Insane, and she only retired on her laurels in March of this year.

Writing of nursing at the present day, she says, "I find that with all our wonderful advantages, and though engaged in so great a profession, we nurses frequently fall into a rut, and that we need a great deal of pulling to get us out again. What we should do to prevent narrowness is to find out what other hospitals and schools are doing, and let ourselves be broadened by this knowledge. For instance, students in a small hospital have many advantages over those in larger schools, one of which is that they come in daily contact with the Superintendent of Nurses, who, if she is the woman she should be, exercises a great influence for good in this close intercourse. Sometimes the large school offers such wide opportunities that the single student cannot grasp all that is set before her, and is hindered in her development by the consequent difficulty of concentrating her efforts on fundamental requirements. True progress in the largest sense comes most rapidly from acknowledging good work wherever it is found.

"Fifty years from now nurses will look back, and say that we did not know very much about nursing in the first decade of the twentieth century, even with the twenty-five years of pioneer work that lay behind us. Nevertheless, the more faithfully each of us does her own individual work of to-day, the more rapid will be the growth of this great movement, the art of caring for the sick, which already has exercised so vast an influence in all countries on the social conditions of the State and of the city and of the town, and on the social customs of the family and of the neighbourhood."

The book, which should be in all nurses' libraries, is published by Whitcomb and Barrows, price 1 dollar (4s. 2d.). M. B.

The National Council of Nurses.

A meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Grand Council of the National Council of Trained Nurses will be held on the same day in the third week in July, when important business will come before the meetings. Business in connection with the Triennial meeting of the International Council will take precedence, which meeting takes place at Cologne in August, 1912, and promises to be an exceedingly interesting gathering. As established by precedent an International Congress on Nursing and an Exhibition will be organised, and the social functions promise, aided by German hospitality, to rival those of London in 1909.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Cutler, Assistant Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C., will be obliged if the affiliated societies which desire to nominate new delegates to serve on the Grand Council, to substitute those now forming the Council, will send names to her not later than July 15th next. Each affiliated Society or League has the right to depute two delegates to serve on the Council, those with over 400 membership three delegates, and those with over 600 members four delegates, after which there is no increase of representation.

The International Council of Nurses.

PLANS FOR THE COLOGNE CONGRESS.

Although, during the next six months, the President of the International Council of Nurses will be in hiding in Switzerland, finishing the translation of Volume 2 of Nursing History, and the Secretary will likewise be concealed in a retreat in the country with only one mail a day, getting the third volume into shape for the printer, yet the plans for the coming Congress are shaped and ready for general announcement, though details may, of course, be left until next winter.

The Congress and regular meetings of the International Council will be held in August, the precise date not fixed. By courtesy and special consideration of the Mayor of Cologne, the meetings will be held in a sumptuous and beautiful mediæval building, called the Gürzenich. It was built by the Town Council in the fifteenth century as a centre in which to entertain distinguished visitors, and was first used for a magnificent festival in 1475, in honour of the Emperor Frederic III. In the middle of the last century it was thoroughly

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