

otherwise is like pouring water into a sieve. One of the foremost nurses in New York State says: "I do not consider that any hospital should attempt to maintain a school that is not willing to affiliate for those services in which its own institution is deficient. More and more insistence on affiliations is being made through the State." This undoubtedly voices the sentiments of all who have given it due consideration.

As affiliation is practised at present, the defect most noticeable is (kindly remember this is all upon the side of the affiliating school), to again quote from the same writer, "the failure of the schools, in sending their nurses for any special services, to investigate carefully as to the hospital facilities from the standpoint of the number of cases and equipment, and the training-school facilities from the standpoint of administration and instruction." Because of this failure to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the working of the special school, the affiliating school sometimes considers the demands of the special school arbitrary, and best results are not obtained.

One of the most important points is the question of the diploma. Shall the home school diploma include that of the special school? Of course, granting this specialty is an important one, there would seem to be but one reply, and that in the affirmative, but so much hinges upon just how this special course is regarded. Is it—the special course—a part of the entire course? Does the certificate of the hospital stand for the inclusion of such courses? When exception is made should it not be with the consent of the Registration Department? Can any good reason be shown why this is not a desirable ruling? This is not to be interpreted as claiming that the affiliating school diploma is dependent upon that of the special, but, unless plainly indicated otherwise, it should include it. Here, of course, arises the question of discipline, but that will be taken up later on.

Two important questions are:—"What is the minimum length of time in which the special school can give a satisfactory course in obstetrics, eye, ear, nose, and throat work, contagion, gynæcology, nursing of the insane, etc.?" and "What is the minimum length of time that should be spent by a nurse in her home school before entering upon the special course, particularly in obstetrics?" As to the former, all will agree that a course of three months is none too long, and that eighteen months in the affiliating school before becoming a pupil in a special school is a very fair minimum time. It is true that the home school is often badly discommoded by not

having a little more lee-way in this matter, but very few nurses are prepared to take up special courses much sooner than at the end of eighteen months, particularly in the matter of trained judgment. Is it not true also that a nurse who has had at least some operating-room service in her home school is better prepared to grasp and perform the work of a special hospital, as, with few exceptions, the special work involves good surgical technic? Do the affiliating schools understand what a loss is suffered by the pupil if she comes totally unprepared as to her mental attitude and her ability to assume responsibility?

Now to turn to the consideration of the special school. For what purposes are special hospitals in existence? To supply a service which in its natural demands requires special technic, special training both for doctors and nurses, and special equipment—all of which would be incompatible with the workings of a majority of the general hospitals. The aim of those connected with the special hospitals is to provide detailed and comprehensive teaching to nurses that it would be impossible to obtain in so finished a way elsewhere. As they exist to-day the principal criticism to be made is lack of definition, that is, not as to teaching, but in their relations to affiliating schools, or, in other words, no well-defined agreement exists, and failure to understand and co-operate is the result. May it not be said that they are a trifle too arbitrary? Have they not been too much "a law unto themselves?" Have they interested themselves in the home school sufficiently in reporting to it upon the work and conduct of the pupils? Is it not the almost universal experience that the qualities of pupil nurses, good, bad, or indifferent, manifest themselves in the special school much the same as in the home school and therefore furnish the two principals a common ground of sympathy and co-operation?

Are these special schools generally well enough understood in the matter of their teaching of a specialty? To explain, it is the common rule that in case a pupil nurse during her three months' course is obliged to drop out for any reason after the completion of perhaps the first week her place shall be filled by one who is a graduate of that particular special school. The hardship this entails upon the affiliating school can be readily understood, and certainly the special schools should be able to offer very good reasons for such ruling which, from their point of view, they certainly do. In order to carry each pupil nurse over the advertised curriculum, she must receive daily just what is scheduled; then, on the other hand, the pro-

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