

tion, such as the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, and no Central Training School, but well organized associations have been in existence in the larger cities for a great many years.

The first district nurse was employed in New York City in 1873. Of late it has been impossible to meet the demand for district nurses from the many new associations being formed all over the country, but we are thankful to say it never occurs to any to appoint an untrained woman, or to undertake to train her themselves. The Boston Association has a small training school with a six months' course; other associations, such as Chicago and Cleveland and the Nurses' Settlement, New York, train their own staffs, but are under constant pressure to send their workers to organize new fields. Salaries vary from \$35 a month, with maintenance, to \$100, where the nurse maintains herself. A month's vacation, with pay, is given each year. Some associations undertake the school nursing and that of the tuberculosis clinics, the additional salaries being guaranteed. The Nurses' Settlement of New York, with a staff of fifty-five nurses, working principally among the foreign population in the lower part of the city, but with nurses located all over the different boroughs, was founded and is still managed by nurses.

Westchester County, New York, has an interesting little association, with a local committee in each village which makes itself responsible for supplies, carriage hire, and other local expenses, while the general committee pays the nurses' salaries. Six nurses are employed, each covering a group of villages, according to the population. Bicycling is little indulged in; the country is very hilly and many roads very bad in winter. In zero weather in winter, or a blazing day in summer, a "top buggy" is much more comfortable, and also conducive to neighbourliness, by enabling one to take out a convalescent patient for an airing or "pick up" a friend along the road.

Since the Spanish-American War the National Red Cross Society has been thoroughly reorganized under the presidency of Mr. Taft, the President of the United States. It has now a competent Nursing Committee of fifteen members, of whom nine, including its chairman, are nurses. This committee attends to the enrolment of nurses, with the assistance of subcommittees in each State. In States having registration laws all nurses enrolled must be registered. About 1,500 are now enrolled, ready for service, not only in time of war, but of any great disaster, fires, floods, earthquakes, or mining calamities, to which the Red Cross

is ready to respond immediately. We aim to make the Red Cross our "honour roll," that the nation shall have our best when the call comes, and that our best work shall be done wherever we are sent. We ourselves have been given the opportunity to select and prepare the nurses for the nation's service, and on us now rests the responsibility.

The outlook for all nursing work is hopeful; we still have many poor schools; we still have a few doctors wishing to control our affairs or fix our fees; but often, when our ideals are slow of attainment it is due, alas, not to outside antagonism, but to the indifference of our own profession. Our organizations are growing yearly in strength, in influence and in power; division has never weakened us, nor legislation affected us adversely; and we trust that with increasing efficiency and thorough preparation we may be able to move and move directly for the public good.

AMERICAN NURSING NEWS.

The August issue of the *American Journal of Nursing* is devoted almost entirely to the proceedings and papers of the Associated Alumnae, now the American Nurses' Association, many of which are of great interest.

The question of sending a delegate to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Cologne in 1912 was discussed, and Miss Delano pointed out that if the Association waited until its meeting next year to nominate a delegate this did not give time for the representative appointed to make her plans to go. She said further that the Superintendents, in convention, had acted upon this, and that it was according to the letter of the agreement in the formation of the Federation that the two Societies should share in the expense of sending a delegate. This was accordingly agreed.

At a meeting held during the recent Convention of the Superintendents' Society at Boston, the graduates of the Hospitals Economics Course (now the Department of Nursing and Health) decided to form an Alumnae Association of their members, to meet annually at the Convention season. The object is partly social and fraternal, but the Association hopes also through such co-operation to assist more effectively in the advancement of nursing education, and in such social and educational movements as seem to require its special interest. Miss Mary C. Wheeler was elected President, and Miss Isabel M. Stewart, Secretary-Treasurer.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)