

the institution. It is a pernicious system, which has been abandoned in all our representative schools, and I can imagine that the nurse who enters a school where such a system is in force under a promise of receiving definite training, feels like the missionary in a cannibal island who was invited to a feast, and when he arrived found that he was expected to furnish the feast. It is no longer considered a proper procedure in our best schools and appears in none which are State registered.

At first any place seemed good enough for a Nurses' Home. All that is gone now, not only is the comfort of the nurses considered, but their Homes are provided with laboratories, diet kitchens, libraries, reading rooms, in short with every facility for training along educational lines, and this marvellous growth is due to the fact of the demands made upon the Nursing Profession on all sides. Nurses are now called upon to enter fields of work never contemplated in the days when nurse training was first instituted.

TRAINING TO TEACH.

One phase which has been neglected till recently has been the training of those who are to do the teaching of nurses, to be the executive in the nursing schools and hospitals. We have developed the training of teachers along almost every other line, but not of nurses, so that they may do it in a precise and systematic manner.

Now, however, we have sure a school (at Teachers' College, Columbia University), which is in the hands of one of our foremost nurses, Professor Nutting. It is bound to succeed because it is essential to the development of nursing education. I do not know if you have a similar course over here, but if not you should begin to work for it at once. With us in a few years I believe such schools will be located in connection with universities throughout the country.

If you cannot get your university course established at once, there is something that you can do, and that is establish a practical course of preparation for executive posts in connection with individual hospitals. The Massachusetts General Hospital has established such a course of instruction for picked graduates of its own school. They are given a thorough training in all the different departments of the hospital, in the work of the training school, in the office, in regard to the keeping of records, and the assignment of nurses to posts. They go to the Steward's department, and learn how to buy, to the kitchen not to learn how to cook but how to run the kitchen, and to the Superintendent's office. They thus get a thoroughly practical training under the executive heads of the hospitals. Though not as good as a university course it is one means of training nurses to fill the higher posts in hospitals.

ENDOWMENT OF NURSING SCHOOLS.

The difficulty of establishing training schools for nurses on truly educational lines is that such schools must be affiliated with hospitals. When such a school is established by a hospital it is not primarily for educational reasons, but because it is a cheap way of nursing the hospital, and it is

this system which is responsible for the fact that training schools have not made greater development than is the case. The exigencies of the hospital may demand that the nurse should be shifted without regard to the school interest. From the standpoint of hospital administration, and of nurse training schools, the interests are not identical. Every training school should be endowed and protected by agreement just as much as medical, law, and other schools are endowed.

The lecturer then described the various activities now open to graduate nurses, especially emphasizing that of Social Service which he described as one of the most important developments of recent years.

STATE REGISTRATION.

We now, continued Dr. Smith, recognise the work of the trained nurse as an essential therapeutic measure. In social work she is needed in every phase of social life to organise, systematise, and teach. What, then, is more natural than that recognition should be given her through State Registration—registration (1) of schools, and (2) of individual nurses with the degree of R.N. Nurses are not compulsorily registered before practising their profession, but that is the idea to which we are working.

In New York the Nursing Department is a part of the State Education Department, which imposes an examination of the qualifications of any school before registration. All schools desire this recognition, because only nurses who graduate from those recognised by the State are eligible for registration by the Board of Regents, and therefore the unregistered schools find a difficulty in obtaining pupils, but the requirements of the State Education Department impose no hardship at all on any school worthy of the name.

It is sometimes asked what good has registration done if it is not compulsory? It has done very much. In the first place it gives recognition to nursing as a profession, and helps to differentiate it from a handicraft. The standardisation of schools has resulted in better schools, a legalised status has been accorded to training schools, and trained nurses, the latter have been helped to form a legalised body to fight for better conditions, and it has deterred candidates for training from being led or lured to some private establishment where there is no sufficiency of training facilities, and skilled nurses have been differentiated from those who have never had definite training and from self styled nurses.

Is it not absurd, continued Dr. Smith, that you have not State Registration of Nurses in this country, the present conditions cannot exist for ever, your physicians and surgeons are bound to wake up to the fact that the profession from which they expect so much must have State recognition, the nursing profession is too important to be left in the hands of any individuals.

Fight then for higher standards. Strive for definite, systematic instruction. If you have the pernicious system of private nursing by pupils in training for profit abolish it.

Some nurses think that State Registration will

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)