

saying that it was possible to make a good business out of a Nursing Home, if these essential points were observed. *Good food, good cooking, good salaries.* These, he insisted upon as all important, if success was to be achieved. The lack of them would doom any place to failure.

#### SESSION II.

Miss Holberton, Matron of the Paddington Infirmary, who presided at the second Session, expressed the opinion that the definition of a standard of nursing must precede further progress.

#### THE SYSTEMATIC TRAINING OF NURSES.

Miss M. Riddell, Matron of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, advocated preliminary examinations for prospective probationers, and if practicable preliminary training schools. One of the first lectures given to probationers after entering the hospital, by the Matron or Assistant Matron, should be on hospital etiquette, always rather a stumbling block to the uninitiated. Miss Riddell then outlined the course to be followed during the three years' training, included in which she considers should be lectures on drugs and dispensing by a qualified dispenser. Incidentally she mentioned Miss Dock's "Materia Medica for Nurses" as invaluable.

Miss Barton, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, in discussing the same question, said this is the most important subject from the point of view of the patients, the public, and of nurses themselves. But in considering it we are met at once by the difficulty that we can give no definition of a trained nurse. There is no established standard, every training school is a law to itself. It depends on the ability, energy, and conscientiousness of those for the time being in authority what the standard is and how well it is maintained.

She described various methods for ensuring that probationers are taught, and become proficient in the nursing duties required of them. She mentioned the advantages and disadvantages of poor law training, and raised the question of the desirability of extending the course of training to four years, and in this event the possibility of affiliation with special hospitals for training purposes.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out that by Statutory Registration professional education could be organized, but by no other means. Other papers presented in this Session were on "Some Difficulties of the Private Nurse," by Miss Isabel Macdonald, and "The Training School Curriculum and the University Course of America," by Miss M. S. Rundle, which we printed in an abridged form in our last issue.

Miss Rundle has had the advantage of instruction in connection with the course of Hospital Economics given to nurses at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, under the supervision of Miss M. Adelaide Nutting. She considers that the greatest value of the course lies in the fact that it is the centre to which trained nurses turn for visions of the ideal, as well as for practical help and guidance.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th.

#### SESSION I.

Miss S. M. Marsters, Superintendent of the Paddington District Nursing Association, presided at the afternoon Session, when the first paper presented was that by Miss Catherine Crowther (Q.V.J.I.) on "Branches of the Nursing Profession," in which she described the various openings for nurses. The paper was read by Miss White, Senior Assistant in the Office, as Miss Crowther was unable to be present.

#### OPENINGS FOR DELICATE OR ELDERLY NURSES.

Miss M. G. Spencer of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women presented the first paper on this subject, and said that experience leads us to expect that the nurse with hospital and institution work to her credit will be adaptable. Strenuous work at all hours and in all seasons will have prevented her from getting into a monotonous groove. The nurse's outlook is fresh and hopeful, and she looks on retirement as an opening into a new life of interest and activity.

What her future shall be depends on her individual taste, on whether she has a small nest egg, and on what the public want.

Questions affecting her decision are:—Is she a born organiser, or public speaker, are her sympathies political, or is she a student, loving her own domain, does she take up new ideas quickly? The care of convalescents, of a rest house, an invalid kitchen are possibilities; she might take week-end visitors in a country cottage, manage village property, or run a tea room, or a hand laundry with a mending attached, or become a stewardess on board ship. Nurses must remember that their own profession is most highly organized, and they would miss this on entering another.

Miss Marsters mentioned Health Visiting as a possible occupation for a retired nurse, but said that the pay was not very good.

Miss Breay remarked that the position of nurses who accept posts as stewardesses is not satisfactory as they do not rank as officers but are placed under the purser. She expressed her astonishment at hearing the nursing profession described as highly organized, and said it had no standards, no state recognition. The result was apparent in connection with the National Insurance Act, in which *trained* nurses were not mentioned. Also on the Advisory Committee, while registered midwives with three months' training were granted representation, three years' trained nurses had no such corporate recognition.

In a paper on the same subject Miss Rosa Smith said that the first difficulty to combat is the almost invariable wish of the nurse to start a small boarding house or nursing home which she spends all her savings in furnishing, and as she is seldom a sharp business woman the scheme ends in saddest disaster. She mentioned rescue work, in charge of small homes, as work for which a nurse's previous experience qualifies her.

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