

think her attitude on this subject is nowhere more clearly shown than in a few words she once used in discussing this subject. "Surely," she said, "we should agree that where the sick are concerned there should be no 'best schools.'"

To see all schools on a good substantial uniform level of work and effort, rather than a few far in the lead and other struggling helplessly against disabilities—this was her ideal, and to this end she more and more directed her energies, fully as she recognised the part that legislation and State registration must ultimately play in bringing about a more uniform and stable system of nurses' education. She appears to have become strongly impressed with the idea that a very considerable degree of uniformity in their education could be brought about through the Superintendents of Training Schools. This thought she finally embodied in a paper of which the substance was as follows: If we could only bring together in one institution the future Superintendents of Training Schools, give them there some special courses of instruction in preparation for their work, inspire them with the same standards and ideals, provide them with common methods of teaching, we might, through these Superintendents and teachers, bring about a considerable degree of uniformity, and plans for some such course were roughly sketched.

The Society of Superintendents, before whom this paper was read, cordially endorsed and pledged material aid to the development of Mrs. Robb's plan, and in this instance, as well as others, furnished a useful demonstration of the enormous value of such an organisation in initiating and supporting measures of educational and professional advance.

Miss Nutting then detailed how Teachers' College was selected for the experiment. The interest of Dr. James Russell, the Dean, was evident from the outset; his advice and support were invaluable, and eventually arrangements were made to admit nurses as students who were graduates of high schools, and also of training schools for nurses approved by the Society and who gave satisfactory evidence of experience and personal fitness.

The course was opened with two students in 1899, and in the second year Miss Anna L. Alline, a first year student, was appointed, and remained in office till 1906, resigning to become Inspector of Training Schools in New York State. The expense of this officer was met by the Society, not the College, and the special lectures in hospital and training school matters were contributed without payment for several years by members of the Society, often at considerable effort and expense to themselves.

Miss Nutting then related that it early became very clear that the course needed a good deal more than the College could give it. The students were asking for instruction which could not be secured for them. Special lecturers and teachers in subjects not included in the work of the College were

needed. In fact, to handle nursing problems satisfactorily an organised department with a special Faculty, force and equipment was necessary. On the staff of voluntary lecturers, and familiar with the needs of the course, was a most distinguished nurse, Miss Lillian D. Wald, head of an important nursing settlement. She generously drew the attention and interest of a wealthy philanthropic woman, Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, to the problems confronting the supporters of the course, with the result that in December, 1909, a substantial endowment was provided, so that the work might be carried on with greater efficiency and be enlarged and developed in certain important directions.

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND HEALTH.

A regular Department of the College was thereupon established, called Nursing and Health, and organised to embrace new activities. Where for years there was but part of the time of one supervisor there was now a staff consisting of a Director holding the University appointment of Professor of Nursing and Health, two regular assistants on full salaries, and full time in charge of special divisions, one responsible for the supervision of the group preparing to be teachers, the other of those preparing for public health work, besides eight other lecturers and teachers attached to the Department. It had been thought best to put the resources almost wholly into supplying lecturers and teachers, with the result that it was now somewhat cramped on the administrative side and needed more clerical aid.

#### A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

Miss Nutting then showed that within the last two years the number of students had more than doubled, and the outlook for the future in that direction was promising. The aim, however, was not to attract a great number of students, but to give special and advanced opportunities to those who had demonstrated their ability to profit by them, and who were likely to be drawn into the more important and responsible posts in training schools and public health work. One hundred and fourteen students had received diplomas or certificates from the College. Five nurses had gone further and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science, and two were working for the degree of Master of Arts.

Miss Nutting then went into detail as to the scope of the course which, most interesting as it is, it is impossible to publish at length in this issue; we have endeavoured here to give rather the more general view.

#### THE RESULTS.

Concerning results she wrote:—"Perhaps our most tangible asset so far may be that our students may have conceived a new respect for nursing, a new appreciation of its value in the general scheme of life, an awakening to the weaknesses and defects of our present structure, an acceptance of the

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