

religious orders which have been more recently founded, especially in Ireland and America, more readily adopt modern methods of nursing. The science of bacteriology has revolutionised surgery, and made possible things which forty or thirty years ago were considered impossible. We know that since germs have been proven to be the cause of disease, scientists on both Continents have been, and still are, working to discover the best means of overcoming the pernicious effects of these pathogenic germs.

In 1861, when the Sisters of Mercy at Dublin, Ireland, were about to open their first hospital, the "Mater Misericordiae," which is, or was at that time, the largest in the British Isles, and was called the "Palace of the Poor," several Sisters of Mercy were sent to Kaiserswerth to learn the methods of nursing then taught there. Irish Sisters of Mercy were with Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. Miss Nightingale wrote that the Sisters were her right hand, that they kept good order and preserved discipline wherever they were. Since 1861 almost all workhouse hospitals in Ireland have been handed over to the Sisters of Mercy. The Government provides all necessaries and pays the Sisters a salary, also furnishes private apartments for the Sisters, and allows them a Chaplain.

The Sisters of Mercy Hospital of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., have studied the best theoretical works recommended by physicians and others familiar with the modern methods of nursing. We were anxious to acquire the best means of applying the theory to the practical work of the latest improved methods of caring for the sick, and also of conducting a Training School for Nurses. In order to secure the best, we were advised to procure a thoroughly trained woman to take charge of the Training School. We were fortunate in getting a woman who started the School on the right basis and laid the solid foundation on which the Sisters have continued to build. The Sisters have taken up every new idea, and continued to advance step by step, as theory and science led the way.

The Sisters specialise or take up one kind of work. Some have the operating room work. They have charge of the nurses employed in the operating rooms, and teach them all things pertaining to surgical service. Other Sisters give X-Ray treatments, make and mount skiagraphs; a Sister has charge of the surgical supply department, where nurses are taught to buy all surgical supplies, and also to prepare dressings for the different operations: anæsthetics and everything needed for surgery

are dispensed from this room. The pharmacy is in charge of a registered pharmacist. She is the first woman who took the State Board examination in the State of Illinois. All the medicines for the Hospital are prepared by her and a Sister assistant. Another Sister has charge of the department of hydro-therapeutics and electro-therapeutics. We also have three Sister Anæsthetists. The first one who specialised in this work has given 15,000 anæsthetics in twelve years, and has never lost a patient from the effects of an anæsthetic. The Pathological Laboratory is also under the care of a Sister. Internes make examinations of the various pathological specimens. All is under the supervision of Professor Robert F. Zeit, of the North-Western University, Chicago.

The Obstetrical department is also in charge of a Sister. There are two dressing-rooms, septic and aseptic, each in charge of a Sister, one Interne and a Nurse, where about one hundred patients are dressed daily.

The Superintendent of the Training School is a graduate of our own School, who, after having taken the training, became a member of the community. The Assistant Superintendent is also a graduate of Mercy Hospital Training School. The pupil nurses average one hundred. Our Training School is affiliated to the North-Western University. Nurses receive their diplomas with the other students of the North-Western University. It is the first Training School in the United States to be affiliated to a University.

There are forty Sisters engaged in hospital work, twenty of whom are registered according to the laws of the State of Illinois for Registration of Nurses. We have graduated twenty-two classes, 350 nurses.

The nurse who is trained in the knowledge of sterilization and disinfection is able to give the surgeon most efficient aid, and the patient more comfort and assurance of speedy restoration to health. Those religious orders which have been founded during the nineteenth century have taken kindly to modern methods of nursing. The older religious orders, which have not adopted the Training School for Nurses, have not neglected to study the new methods and adopt new ideas in things pertaining to asepsis in surgery, and nursing medical patients.

These religious organisations know that to preserve order and secure best results, there must be one head, whom all obey; as on board a ship, if every man could steer the vessel, confusion soon would cause shipwreck. To lead an army to victory, soldiers and officers

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