

It will also interfere with the training of young women from good families in the State, that have been unfortunate in their education—thus shutting off the supply of pupil nurses to sanitariums. The latter will, therefore, be forced to employ expensive nurses, thus increasing the outlay of each of them to several thousand dollars a year."

In Indiana medical opposition also was keen, and amongst other objectors Dr. Beates shuddered at the "hard visaged, iron jawed, close-fisted, selfish leaders of the nurse-opathic crowd," and looked for the day when R.N. should signify "Retired Nurse"—occupation gone!

The Massachusetts nurses also had a hard fight, and the *American Journal of Nursing* recorded. "No group of nurses in their efforts for registration had to meet such bitter opposition from physicians of high standing."

A FASCINATING STUDY.

Little space is left to refer to the general history in the States; it is a fascinating study, and we commend our readers to the History itself. The story of the foundation of the *American Journal of Nursing*, with its splendid subsequent record, and of the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* is told. The efficient Red Cross organization, and Miss Maxwell's splendid work in the typhoid camp at Chickmauga, in the Spanish-America War, are related, and Miss Maxwell's graphic description of the way in which she combatted the difficulties reminds us of the example of her illustrious predecessor in the Crimea. "The beds made ready, the cars containing utensils arrived, and it was decided to receive 200 patients on the second of August. . . . Their condition on arrival can be better imagined than described. Many were wildly delirious, their burning bodies in a filthy condition, dead flies were found embedded in the coatings removed from their mouths, and there were numbers of bedsores of a magnitude unknown at the present day." When informed by the commissary that it was after six and no utensils could be unpacked till the next day she informed the authorities that she would open the cars by force, if necessary, rather than expose the already overworked nurses to the dangers of infection.

An interesting comment on the visiting nurse is that where she is closely subordinated she remains a strictly ameliorative agent submitting silently to unjust conditions, but where she is able to exert initiative her work is preventive.

M. B.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES AND ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

The following correspondence has passed between the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and the Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the question of freedom of speech for the Nursing Staff, within the hospital, on their Registration by the State.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses,

431, Oxford Street, London, W,

January 20th, 1913.

SIR,—I am directed to say that it has been brought to the notice of this Society that a Resolution has recently been passed by the Committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital depriving the Nursing Staff of freedom of speech concerning their Registration by the State, which affects their educational, economic and social status, thus denying them the power, within the institution, of discussing their own professional affairs.

I shall be obliged if you will confirm or deny this statement.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary

(*Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital*).

Thomas Hayes, Esq.,

Clerk to the Governors

of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,

January 23rd, 1913.

MADAM,—In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, I beg to say that the Resolution passed by the Committee of this Hospital on the 5th ult. does not, either in intention or effect, deprive the members of the Nursing Staff of freedom of speech on the question of the State Registration of Nurses or on any other subject.

The Committee's decision is merely that meetings for the discussion of controversial subjects cannot be held in the Hospital.

The Governors have never desired to influence or control the opinions of those in their service, who are absolutely free to hold any views they like; and, outside the Hospital, to hold or attend meetings for the discussion of this or any other subject.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

G. ACTON DAVIS,
Acting Treasurer.

Miss Margaret Breay,

Hon. Secretary,

The Society for the State

Registration of Trained Nurses,

431, Oxford Street, W.

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