

foundations have got to be broadened in order to ensure the stability of the superstructure."

Broadening—yes, the broadening of the training, mental and ideal as well as scientific and technical, of the nurse, to meet the great widening of her responsibilities and her field of work, together with a generous co-operation of all parties interested, and a recognition by all of their interdependence, seem to me the fine foundation of the newer thought in the States. The newer thought, I say advisedly. "The States" is a very huge piece of territory, and it would be surprising to find a whole continent at one upon any subject. There are plenty of nurse-laggards, poor souls; plenty of backward hospitals, plenty of unintelligent individuals and hospital committees and governors and boards, still left to occupy all the splendid efforts of the nursing pioneers amongst our American colleagues and their friends.

But—and what a big "but"—that the dawn-light of knowledge has spread and is spreading faster than, alas! has been the case amongst ourselves, is proved by two very pregnant facts at the outset. The Registration of Nurses, together with their public examination, is an accomplished victory in many States of the Union, whilst we are still striving, and so far ineffectually, to convince our ignorant sisters and an unenlightened public that the measure is desirable in the interests of the public health. And again, a University education for nurses has been now for some years a possibility in New York. The post-graduate course under Miss Adelaide Nutting, at Teachers' College, Columbia University, is drawing some of the best of our nursing sisters in the States to take its curriculum.

It was, I think, with some trepidation that Miss Nutting telephoned over to me on my arrival in New York, for a rumour had preceded me that I was to spend four years upon that course. And, unless the instrument was out of order, there was certainly a distinct tone of relief in her voice when she learned that her elderly post-graduate student was a myth. It is unnecessary for her to repudiate the fact. She cannot bring any proof, although she will no doubt attribute it to the vibration of the wire. Don't you believe it.

One of my pleasantest evenings in New York was spent at the gathering of students, past and present, under Miss Nutting. They will, the students and herself, forgive me if I tell our nurses on this side the points which struck me most in that gathering. And first it was that wonderful sense of loyalty to their Alma Mater, of faithfulness to their Head, their

training and themselves, which ought to be, and alas! is not, derived from the atmosphere of every nurse-training school.

Secondly, their energy, their brightness, and their enthusiasm. And, thirdly their entire independence and self-respect, the freedom of spirit which obeys willingly, the independence of mind which recognizes the necessity of organized effort under a common authority.

Fourthly, the legitimate pride in their profession and a breadth of vision in regard to its possibilities which would, I am afraid, scandalize our weaker brethren—of either sex.

And such interesting women! I should have liked to spend many evenings hearing of their experiences, notably of those who had worked under Dr. Grenfell as pioneers in Labrador, with a minimum of comfort and approximate starvation diet. May the rest forgive me that, where all were delightful, I can but note these two.

This breadth of mind, professional aspiration and far-sightedness—this freedom—for I can imagine no other description—of the habitual mental attitude, is no doubt partly an attribute of a younger world, unbound by some of the harassing conventions, the unintelligent prejudices, which hedge the old world life, and spread the wet blanket of *Don't* over all effort to soar. Many a lesson I learned in the States. One of them was that, over there *there is no Impossible*. The poor emigrant of to-day may be the statesman of to-morrow. The cook may marry the millionaire. And these inherent possibilities are present unacknowledged amongst all classes. They make for self-respect, they make for intelligent effort, they make for true freedom of thought. And, more than all, they make for the deference to knowledge and the respect for others which should be the characteristics of all workers.

I was speaking with the Superintendent of the nurse-training school in a very big hospital, and I said to her, as I often do, "How do you get on with your Committee?"

"Oh," she answered, with an emphasis which carried conviction home to me, "I just lean on my Committee, and they are so helpful and smooth out difficulties for me so wisely." An independent woman who had learned to respect the views of others and they her's.

But perhaps the best example of respect for others, and for knowledge, which I came across was given me by a Superintendent of District Nursing and her two Committee ladies from a State west of New York. "You know," said the Superintendent, as soon as the Committee ladies' backs were decently turned, "those

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