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EDITORIAL.

A LIBERAL EDUCATION.

The Address of Miss Clara D. Noyes, R.N., President of the National League of Nursing Education to the gathering of associations of nurses at the San Francisco Conference, should be studied by all interested in nursing education. Miss Noyes declared that "never in the history of nursing has the demand for highly educated and carefully prepared women for the widening field of nursing been so insistent, and so persistent," and at the same time pointed out that "nursing schools unendowed, dependent upon the hospital with which they are connected for support, cannot be considered as true educational institutions for it is a well known fact that all such require money in order to live."

It is unquestionable that this dependence of nursing education upon the committees of charitable institutions, not primarily interested in the question, is one of the greatest hindrances to the advancement of nursing. It is not part of their work to subsidise comprehensive schemes of education most essential in the interests of the community and the nurse, but simply to provide for the efficient care of the sick within their walls. It is only necessary to consider what would be the position of medical education, if similarly dependent, to realize the disabilities imposed on nursing by this method.

Education, it must be emphatically stated, is not mere book knowledge.

The influence of environment, the contact with men and women of all classes, and the cultured atmosphere of colleges and universities are factors which largely enter into true education, and which make residence in a university, when rightly used, so invaluable, and a broadening uplifting influence. It is one which is specially necessary in the life of a nurse, for her work

in institutions is singularly circumscribed, her interests often being bounded by the walls of a hospital ward. Private nurses it is true have the opportunity of education which comes from contact with a variety of different people and of residence in a variety of places at home and abroad, and when they are open to such influences they often develop in a most remarkable way.

It is nurses themselves who, feeling their disabilities, have endeavoured to secure the foundation of professional courses in which the development of the nurse is the primary consideration. The most conspicuous example of this is the foundation of the Professorship of Nursing and Health at Teachers College, Columbia University, and of systematic courses of instruction, on academic lines, and the foundation of scholarships connected therewith. The German nurses have followed on the same lines by the foundation of a similar course at Leipsic University, but, so far, there is none to satisfy the aspirations of British nurses, in the United Kingdom.

One of the greatest factors in education, professional or general, is undoubtedly foreign travel, and no greater boon could be conferred on the nursing profession in this country than the foundation of travelling scholarships, and especially scholarships which will enable the holders to attend the triennial meetings and Congresses of the International Council of Nurses which are an illuminating and liberal education to those fortunate enough to participate in them. It will be noted in the letter from Miss Beatrice Kent from San Francisco on page 119, that the key note of the recent conference to her was the keen desire and effort of American nurses to set up a high standard of nursing education. Their success in the attainment of this object in the past, the result of conscientious work, must inspire those who come in contact with them to emulate their zeal.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)