

"Therefore," said she, "we must strengthen our organizations; my last word is then *organize, concentrate.*" Many of these *bons mots* that I heard from the lips of so many eminent American nurses, ought to be graven on our minds as golden pointers. In connection with this I should like to quote from the Paper read by Miss Hunter, formerly Matron of the General Hospital, Brisbane, Queensland: "It has been interesting to note the gradual but steady increase of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association in size, strength, efficiency and power; and I think it speaks well for the organization of this Association that it can well and efficiently control hospitals and the training of nurses over such a large area; an area nearly as large as that of the United States. There is one system of training, one standard of efficiency, and one examination." Nothing but co-operation and unity of purpose could produce such stability and organization.

The report of the *Department of Nursing and Health* for the year ending May 31st, 1915, was intensely interesting. It was prepared and submitted by Professor Adelaide Nutting, who was, unfortunately, unable to be present. The Paper was read by Miss Maxwell. By the courtesy of the American Nurses' Association, I am enabled to reproduce some of the most interesting facts:—

"The Department of Nursing and Health has registered this year, in all, 84 students, roughly divided as follows:—For Training School Administration, 25; For teaching in Training Schools, 20; For Public Health Nursing, 34; (the last group includes those preparing for School Nursing, Red Cross Work, &c)—Total, 84.

"At the request of a good many nurses occupied during the day and unable to attend the regular courses given in the College, special evening courses were offered for the first time in the history of the Department. The result has been interesting. For an evening course given by Miss Goodrich, dealing with the current problems in Training School work, 80 students registered. For Miss Stewart's course on Nursing Principles and Methods, 50 students registered. . . . For a third short course on Abnormal Mental States, designed largely for Public Health Nurses, there were from 100-130. It has been decided to continue some evening work next year, and at the request of prospective students a course on History of Nursing will be given. . . . The Alumnae Meeting in January was well attended and our graduates are showing a good deal of public spirit and unity of purpose. . . . There are some important problems before the Department relating to its future and the way in which its growth shall be directed. As a Graduate Department it has proved that it has a well-defined and essential service to perform in training teachers and administrators for our schools of nursing, and in preparing for Public Health work. It is not less important, however, that in the actual education of the nurses, the advantages which the University has to offer should be available and fully utilized. The next

logical step forward is the development of a University Training School for Nurses in connection, of course, with some hospital of proper standing. To establish such a school on such a basis as would insure sound educational work, would mean an endowment of about one million dollars. This seems a large sum, but when we see the ease with which much larger sums are secured by medical schools and other professional schools in connection with universities, and by Women's Colleges in particular, we need not, and should not, look upon this as a visionary scheme, impossible of realization. It is, on the contrary, a practical plan for placing at least one School of Nursing on a sound economic basis. I look forward confidently to the ultimate upbuilding of such a school in connection with this University."

We English nurses sympathize with their aspirations, and shall be ready with our warm congratulations upon the fruition of their hopes.

Miss Nutting laughingly said to me one day: "We are education mad here." I replied that it was a fine form of insanity!

It is abundantly evident that the leaders of Nursing in America consider that mediocrity is a crime to the enlightened mind. In the highest profession for women, the highest should be striven for.

BEATRICE KENT.

## LEGAL MATTERS.

### MASQUERADING IN THE UNIFORM OF THE RED CROSS NURSE.

A remarkable story, as reported in the *Daily Chronicle*, was told at Wingham Sessions on September 2nd by Chief Constable Stone of the career of a woman known as Mary Aileen Gardner, who was convicted on a charge of masquerading in the uniform of a Red Cross nurse at Ash, near Canterbury, on August 5th.

Accused, who was born in Dublin, came to Chatham at an early age with her parents. When only eighteen years of age she married a journeyman carpenter, by whom she had had two children. After separating from him she obtained a situation at Earl's Court, and whilst there posed to a lady whose acquaintance she made as an heiress and ward in Chancery.

She was first convicted at Worthing, and was sent to a home, and since 1906 had been convicted of seven cases of felony at York, Queen's Ferry, Edinburgh, and Rochester, and bigamy at Edinburgh.

The woman wore the uniform of a nurse for the purpose of getting into good society, and took the opportunity of stealing everything she could lay her hands on. As a matter of fact she knew nothing about nursing. She embarked on the most extraordinary adventures, utterly regardless of consequences.

According to Sir Thomas Clouston, medical expert at Morningside Asylum, she was insane, a danger to the community, and a human being devoid of any sense of right or wrong.

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