

"The American Journal of Nursing. Since October, 1900, the nurses have published their own Journal. It was established, financed, and edited by nurses. At first the private property of a few who were willing to assume a financial risk for the sake of their professional interests, it is now the property of the American Nurses' Association. In it may be found the important facts of nursing history; and every graduate nurse should consider the Journal one of the professional publications that she must have, and that her duty is not done unless she tries to contribute something to make it interesting. . . . There are commercial publications that are attractively presented which appeal to the nurse who has not yet learned to discriminate between true and false teaching. The publications and associations that seek to control nursing affairs for commercial purposes only, are not merely to be avoided, but are to be exposed."

Miss Parsons is imbued with the spirit of progress, a spirit probably strengthened during her post-graduate studentship at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. Many aspiring Superintendents have gone through a course at that great educational centre. In the last chapter entitled "Looking Ahead" she suggests reforms for the future. "The next great development will probably be the endowment of nursing schools," she says; "With a generous endowment for the training-school, so that the economic necessities of the hospital need not conflict with the educational needs of the school, we may hope to develop an ideal system of theory and practice."

"Since the establishment of the first school for trained nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, we have advanced a little way towards better nursing conditions. We have registries and Clubhouses; we have compiled text-books; we have edited Journals; we have procured examination and registration in many States, and in some States the law is compulsory. But we have only begun our work. The first nurse in America to receive a diploma is still living, as are several of our pioneers. They have put their training to the test; they know approximately what the newer generation requires in order to do better work. They have worked for our advantage, and it is our privilege to set the standard higher for the benefit of those who will follow us. From a limited field of opportunity, comprising institution work and private duty, we have seen the nurse called into at least twenty distinctly different lines of work, all of them important and interesting. Schools and Colleges, as well as nursing schools, are seeking properly qualified nurse-instructors for both practical nursing and theory. The instructors may be residents or non-residents. The call for nurses to take up office work as dental hygienists and as X-ray technicians, at salaries ranging from 600-1,200 dollars (in English money, £120-£240) with maintenance, are among the latest opportunities.

"Those who are educating the nurse of the

future must realise that in every sense of the word the best equipped women are needed, and that they must be actuated by the professional motive which is defined thus by Florence Nightingale: 'The professional motive is the desire and perpetual effort to do the thing as well as it can be done, which exists just as much in the nurse as in the astronomer in search of a new star, or in the artist completing a picture.'"

We are grateful to Miss Parsons for having given to the nursing world a book so interesting and so inspiring. Every nurse on the other side of the Atlantic who reads it, is fortunate; and we feel sure that those who read the excerpts which we produce in this Journal, will experience a very pleasant stirring of their professional enthusiasm!

B. K.

QUACK DOCTORS AND SECRET REMEDIES.

Lord Rhondda received, on January 24th, a deputation from the Municipal Corporations Association and the County Councils Association on the question of venereal disease. The deputation urged the suppression of quack doctors and the prohibition of advertisements of secret remedies. There is a widespread feeling that, unless such steps are taken, the success of the new scheme of treatment throughout the country will be seriously jeopardized.

LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

A course of lectures (including demonstrations and inspections) has been organized by the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., for Women Health Visitors, Tuberculosis Visitors, School Nurses and School Teachers beginning on Monday, February 12th, at 6 p.m., a fee of £1 11s. 6d. being charged for the course. Candidates who desire to enter for the Health Visitors' Examination must produce evidence of Nursing Training. The course consists of twenty-one lectures. Special arrangements will be made for each student to attend a course of six Infant Consultations, under the direction of Dr. G. Eric C. Pritchard, and students will also have the privilege of attending an inspection and demonstration at the L.C.C. Municipal Lodging House, Kemble Street, Drury Lane, W.C.

A Supplementary Course of Lectures is given for Child Welfare Workers, for which the fee is as above, or, if the two are taken together, £2 12s. 6d. for the two.

COMING EVENTS.

February 3rd.—National Union of Trained Nurses: Annual Meeting of London Branch, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, 2.45; Address on Nurses' Registration Bills, 3.30 p.m.

February 3rd.—Irish Nurses' Association. Meeting Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)