

"THE POWER OF THE ALUMNÆ."

Miss Annette Alison, R.N., of Oakland, California, in her lately published work, entitled "The Power of the Alumnæ," says: "The Alumnæ is the link in our chain which must receive attention if we, an organisation of educated women, are to take and keep our place in the vanguard of civilisation." She goes on to say that though the managing board of every hospital has the interest of the student at heart this interest must cease to a great extent after the graduation of the nurse. The moment when the nurse is thus thrown upon her own resources is the stragetic moment for the Alumnæ. Meanwhile its members have grown more or less worldly wise in their art, are in a position to look upon both hospital and graduate at their face value; they thus form a basic line in a triangle of great strength, and are in a position for better handling all questions relating to the profession, holding together the graduates, guiding them steadily and surely into their proper affiliations with District, State and National organisation.

Miss Alison laments that such an important connecting link can be under-rated or overlooked.

In the chapter "Affiliation," she says, "The problem is how to enlist this great white-frocked army under the banner of the National Association."

She points out that where there is no Alumnæ to hold the graduates of a school together, they may leave the institution that day and, so far as the majority is concerned or interested, they may be lost sight of that day.

The line of work which becomes theirs upon graduation is "*The guarding of their own interests and the interests of others.*"

She goes on to sketch out some suggestions for a successful conduct of Alumnæ, and a very useful one is that the younger members should spend an afternoon once a month with graduates of other training schools for communion and edification. She congratulates the National Directors on their decision that the Alumnæ, in order to be identified with the National body, must be affiliated to the District. "It is a happy solution, for now the power to entertain national questions becomes the duty of the Alumnæ as does also the privilege of advancing new ideas." In the chapter headed "State Registration," she recommends that every superintendent shall have first been a "graduate of the Teachers Course at Columbia University, and come to the training school equipped with the necessary knowledge to handle not only the work of the hospital, but human beings, with hearts and feelings as represented by the student body. They have their rights too, and will measure up better when they are the better considered."

The book is printed by Everett S. Dowdle, 1417, Franklin Street, Oakland, Cal., price 1 dollar 50 cents.

THE WOMEN'S VOTE IN U.S.

Our warmest congratulations are extended to the women of the United States of America on obtaining the Amendment to the Constitution securing to them the Federal Vote. Even now the forces of re-action are busy, and the anti-Suffragists in Tennessee, the 36th State in favour of the measure, are endeavouring to nullify the ratification; but there is little chance of their tactics succeeding, and American women will shortly vote for the first time in the Presidential Election. Most especially do we congratulate Miss L. L. Dock, who threw herself into the fight with characteristic courage and intensity, on the victorious result of the campaign.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The next Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women is to be held in Norway, from September 8th to 18th, 1920. The Norwegian Council hopes to provide hospitality for the officially appointed delegates of the various National Councils. The cost of the passage at present averages £11 for the single journey.

According to the official announcement, the only British women who will be admitted to the meetings, in addition to the delegates and proxies, are Quinquennial Contributors of £5 to the International Council of Women, whose names have been sent to the I.C.W. Secretary, on the recommendation of the British National Council. We do not understand this regulation, as no such provision has ever before been enforced; it can only have the effect of limiting attendance at the Quinquennial Meeting to well-to-do persons, to the detriment of its national character.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.**THE LEOPARD AND THE LILY.**

This new historical romance is of the middle of the fifteenth century, when François II reigned in Brittany.

He came to the throne in a time of peace, but from the hand of François himself came the glint of the sword that brightening smote the country into factions, the little quarrels that spread into civil war, the little whispers that grew into foul slanders, the petty jealousies and intrigues that became heartbreaks and miseries.

And the beginning of this was the coming to the Court of Rennes, of Guy de Montauban, a penniless Breton nobleman who had gradually spread his influence till the Duke had become a mere puppet in his hands.

It is around these disputes and intrigues and civil war that the story is woven, and de Montauban's baleful influence colours the whole book.

Gilles, a younger brother of François, loves, and is betrothed to, Françoise de Dinan, by five years his senior. "She was a poet, musician, selfish, beautiful, passionately enamoured of the graces of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)