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## EDITORIAL.

### VITAL FORMS OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

The School of Nursing of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A., in issuing an Appeal for an endowment fund of 1,000,000 dollars, is, as is pointed out, taking a line of action of peculiar interest and importance, for "it marks the beginning of an effort to place the education of nurses on a suitable economic basis, and to lift, partially at least, from the hospitals of the country, a burden of responsibility for educational work for which they have neither means nor facilities, and which they are carrying on with great and increasing difficulty." No one realises this more keenly than the alumnae of the School, and they are doing a good work, not only for their own Alma Mater but for all others, in showing the need for better educational facilities and school buildings, and in endeavouring to obtain for another generation of pupils facilities which were lacking during their own training. "The School of Nursing of the Johns Hopkins Hospital," so its Appeal states, "believes that a somewhat critical period in the development of the education of nurses has been reached. It desires to place itself upon a sound, stable financial basis, and to have economic freedom to develop its work in accordance with the needs of the numerous fields in which nurses are working, and the complex demands which are made upon them.

"Since nursing is the application of scientific knowledge to the care, cure and prevention of disease; it follows that advances in science must affect methods of nursing. Continued growth and improvement in nursing depends upon the degree in which this fact is understood and applied in the education of nurses.

"The ideals of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing would lead it—

1.—To keep pace with advances in science and to bring the results of scienti-

fic research constantly to bear upon nursing principles, ideas and methods.

2.—To look for more and better ways of passing these ideas, principles, and methods over to others.

3.—To find ways of testing its own practices and results, and of working out new and better methods.

4.—To search for more knowledge, and to encourage the spirit of investigation, and thus to aid in building up the scientific foundation of nursing, and of improving its art and practice.

5.—To build up the literature of nursing, not only in its technical phases, but in its social aspects and wider relationships.

6.—To keep the spirit of service."

The Appeal points out further that while the School has had to conduct its work with rigid economy and has been unable to make many needed and desirable developments for lack of proper means and facilities, "the whole field of nursing work has been expanding and developing in an extraordinary degree. The service of nursing to-day reaches very far beyond the bedside care of the sick in hospitals and homes. It extends into public schools, shops and factories, into crowded city blocks and scattered rural districts, and into every branch of city, state and national health service. It concerns itself with education for the prevention of disease, as well as with the care of the sick.

"This enlargement of the function of the nurse requires a distinct change in her training, for which the present system does not provide. The future value of the nurse—her power to meet the growing needs in these vital forms of public service—depends upon the ability of the School of Nursing to shape her education toward larger issues than those presented in hospitals or private service."

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