

for information as to the position. They went to doctors, and were told that "bed-side" nurses were required. They went to nurses and were told quite different things.

Finally, Miss Nutting appealed for an investigation of the facts, and that a conclusion should be come to on the basis of those facts. In conformity with this appeal a Committee was appointed with Dr. Winslow—a sanitarian—as Chairman, and Miss Josephine Goldmark as investigator. It took a long time to gather the material, but very soon a foundation was found in the hospital situation. All kinds of facts were gathered together—where the scarcity was, whether the training was adequate, and so forth. A few typical schools were taken, and all kinds of statistics gathered, and representations from persons of all shades of opinion. The Committee arrived at the conclusion that nurses were not overtrained, and that they had done a conspicuous piece of work, particularly having regard to the handicaps from which they suffered, and the fact that financial support for their professional education was lacking. The Committee were of opinion that the present standard must not be lowered, that the training should be strengthened rather than weakened, that nurses are used by a hospital for its own requirements and exigencies and that much of their work is relatively unproductive, that non-educational routine should be eliminated, that better supervision of nurses in training was needed, that teaching in hospital wards was weak and instruction in the wards required, and that given these conditions it might be possible to reduce the period of training to two years and four months for basic training only, with an additional eight months of special training. That was now in the experimental stage, but Miss Stewart added that very few hospitals were found which were willing to experiment.

The Committee were further of opinion that every effort should be made to develop University Schools.

The question of the registration of attendants was also referred to by Miss Stewart. The Committee were of opinion that there was evidence to show that large groups of patients did not need expert nurses, and that chronic cases often could not afford to pay fully trained nurses to stay with them. Private nurses, in reporting their cases, said that at least one-third of the patients they attended did not need a trained nurse.

It was, therefore, proposed that there should be a subsidiary group of persons who might be called Nursing-Aides, who would be trained for from eight to twelve months. Nurses did not like the proposal. They had, however, got to see the facts as they were, and then whether they could be remedied.

There were three stages, Miss Stewart said, in the evolution of the nursing profession:—

1. The stage in which people picked up knowledge, there being no systematic instruction.
2. The apprenticeship stage.

3. The stage when a student was in hospital primarily for her own benefit.

Discussion.

MISS NOYES said those present had listened with interest to Miss Stewart's speech, and all were, no doubt, burning to ask questions.

In reply to questions by the BARONESS MANNERHEIM, MISS STEWART said that during the Preparatory Course the hospital did not depend on the work of the students in the wards at all, but the students' interest was increased by their work there. The full course of training in affiliation with a university was for five years. A girl of eighteen is qualified to enter a university and the combined course is two years of college work, two years (or two-and-a-half years) in a hospital, and the remainder of the time in the university. The first two years spent in the university had a broadening influence and provided a cultured background for nursing. At the end of five years the nurse received a diploma from the hospital, and a degree from the university. Sixteen universities in the United States were now giving this training, taking the immature girl, and giving her a cultured background.

MISS NOYES said that the question of the shortage of nurses was one of supply and demand, also it was affected by the alluring opportunities in so many other directions.

SISTER BERGLIOT LARSSON (Norway) said that when reading the Rockefeller Report, though admiring it, she thought it a great blessing to belong to a small country. She thought that the proposal to cut down the training to two years must be inspired by panic, and that the nurses who had to get so much into two years would not have time to live. As for the private nurses, how would it be possible to keep them all the time to acute work? They would die.

MISS H. L. PEARSE (Great Britain) enquired how the health of the student stood the test.

MISS STEWART said it was the way of the modern nurse to take responsibility lightly.

THE COMTESSE D'URSEL (Belgium) spoke of the "formation morale" (educative training), the putting of the pupil into the right atmosphere. The training of character and discipline was most necessary.

MRS. TSCHERNING (Denmark) said she had recently had a visit from a Danish nurse working abroad who said she could not agree with the shortened training. In Denmark they were accustomed to nurse their patients, and hospital authorities had told her that they would take as many Danish nurses as the Danish Council of Nurses could send them.

MISS STEWART (U.S.A.) said that hospitals were apt to take advantage of students by making use of them, and the students would go crippled through life for want of adequate training.

MISS MEJAN (Holland) said she always advised young nurses not to stay in their own country. It was better for them to go abroad and see more.

MISS MUNCK (Denmark) said the question was

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