

by Miss Isabel Stewart, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York City. Miss Stewart has for many years been associated with Professor M. Adelaide Nutting in her fine educational work for nurses.

Miss Stewart spoke of the early beginnings of the course at Teachers' College in 1900 (first known as the course in Hospital Economics) with a class of two students, fostered by Mrs. Hampton Robb, Miss M. A. Nutting, and other leaders of Nursing in the United States of America; of the interest and help extended to the promoters of the course by Dean Russell, Dean of the University. Of the help the Department of Nursing and Health, under Miss Nutting, who took over its superintendence in 1908, had received from an endowment of some £3,000 given by Mrs. Hartley Jenkins. She told how a nurse could now obtain a degree from Columbia University in a five years' course, the first two years being given to studies in the University, the second two years in a Nurse Training School, and the last in the University. In many instances also nurses in training receive part of their theoretical teaching in connection with a University, although not taking a full University Course leading to a degree.

Miss Stewart spoke with enthusiasm and hope of the latest development, the University School of Nursing at Yale, with Miss A. W. Goodrich, R.N., Sc.D., as its Dean.

In reply to questions she discussed the pros and cons of the vexed question of the registration of Attendants, or "Nursing-Aids," and the attitude of the medical profession in relation to the higher education of nurses.

The party broke up reluctantly with the inspiration of—may we call it?—the benediction of Mrs. Strong, and the urge forward of one of the group of nurse-educationists in the United States of America, where evidently a much higher value is set on general education as a foundation of nursing knowledge than on this side of the Atlantic. A telegram, "*Cordiale Sympathie*," from Dr. Anna Hamilton, Bordeaux, was received with much gratification.

M. B.

PRINCESS MARY'S GIFT TO OXFORD COLLEGES.

Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, has sent £100 towards the Four Women's Colleges in Oxford Appeal Fund. This cheque was received in response to a benefactor's offer of £100 on condition that ninety-nine other women gave a similar sum.

THE DANGER OF "GO-AS-YOU-PLEASE" IN THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

A greater illustration of the urgent need for the compulsory scheme of Prescribed Training in Nursing Education—weakly surrendered by the present General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in response to the objections of the Association of Poor Law Unions—could not be given than the sacrifice of life at the Walthamstow General Hospital, owing to an injection of atropine 100 per cent. stronger than that prescribed, having been administered by a probationer to two patients who had undergone operations, both of whom died.

This probationer stated at the inquest held subsequently that when she looked into the ward cupboard for the bottle containing the solution she could not find it; she therefore went to another cupboard and obtained another bottle, from which she gave both injections. She stated further that she did not know there was any difference in the strength of the drug in these two bottles.

From time to time the public is shocked, and homes are desolated by deaths caused by the administration by trained nurses, or nurses in training, of poisonous drugs, or by such drugs having been placed where patients have access to them, but a Coroner's jury usually returns a verdict of accidental death, and, except by those most closely concerned, the tragedy is soon forgotten.

The points in connection with the present case are (1) that hypodermic injections of atropine were given by a probationer, whereas such a dangerous drug should always be administered by a trained and certificated nurse.

We entirely agree with the Coroner, Dr. Ambrose, in the present case, who, when a verdict was returned that "death was due to an overdose of atropine accidentally administered," expressed the opinion that "some scheme should be devised whereby the duty of administering hypodermic injections should be performed by some responsible person." He might further have usefully pointed out the duty of those responsible for keeping poisonous drugs under lock and key.

But further, probationers in training have now the right given them by Parliament of a "prescribed training," and in the course of training defined by the First General Nursing Council instruction in the Administration of Drugs, and the Technique of hypodermic injections was rightly placed in the first year. The old policy of "Go-as-you-please" was to have been ended, and definite instruction given to probationers. The present General Nursing Council, which has made such instruction optional instead of compulsory, cannot be exonerated if fatalities occur owing to the dangerous ignorance of probationers. It is its duty to ensure that such probationers receive the adequate teaching, which will not only enable them to protect themselves, but to be safe attendants upon the sick public.

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