

tions remain outside, or perhaps we should say above, political strife. Any other line of action would necessarily jeopardise peace and unity in an organisation.

It is an indisputable fact that the sickroom and the hospital ward should not be places of political propaganda for one particular party or another. But positive and illuminating discussions on political and other questions of general interest need not be excluded when circumstances appear suitable for them. They can perhaps contribute to awaken public spirit and a feeling of responsibility in many who were previously not interested. A nurse can, therefore, as a good citizen, even when employed in a hospital, contribute towards educating others by emphasising the importance of a living feeling of duty and an active feeling of responsibility, and the necessity for knowledge of and insight into general public questions.

For the nurse who is doing social work, and for the one who takes an active part in public health, there are daily opportunities of coming into touch with circumstances dependent upon public administration. Here we meet, for instance, public education with its enormous influence on children and young people, insurance against sickness and accidents, pensions and old-age insurance, and many other social benefits for citizens of all ages and classes.

When speaking of the nurse as a citizen it is easy to pass from this wider sphere into the narrower circle in which the nurse moves when doing the work to which she has been called. To do so need not mean the putting aside of a question at issue, but is rather only a deepening thereof, because our personal work and our individual task in the community, and the manner in which we fulfil and understand these, constitute the foundation upon which our part in citizenship must be built—the soil wherein it must grow. One may say with good reason that an individual's progress from childhood is of importance to this, but we cannot in this connection go further back than to the time when contact with therapeutics and education for the coming aim in life begins.

When accepted as a student the young woman's responsibility for her actions becomes widened, and this is even more so when her training is concluded and she is accepted as a nurse. In both these cases the public will, in many ways, criticise the schools for nurses and the institutions according to the manner in which their private members appear and act. During the whole of our activity as nurses we must, whether we wish to or not, exercise an influence upon the opinion people hold of the school of nursing which has trained us, and upon the organisation to which we belong—its good name and reputation. The organisation gets a good or bad reputation according to our actions.

As the old Orders had to give way to newer organisations,

the mother-houses have in part had to make way for more modern co-operations possessing a more independent position for the individual. But success is dependent upon unity, the strength of which is dependent upon the feeling of responsibility of the individual members. Progress in our times has gradually taken the direction in which the nurse attends to her own affairs. This is strikingly manifested by the existence of the many different kinds of nurses' associations, the national federations, and by the International Council of Nurses. However, the fact still remains that even these associations must, if progress and success are to be achieved, build upon internal unity and a feeling of responsibility, together with the loyalty of individual members. The corps of nurses must, therefore, make sure that the greater freedom of action possessed by the nurse of to-day is so made of that it becomes a serviceable freedom and does not degenerate into self-indulgence.

There is something else which accompanies co-operation—the growth in importance of the individual's task. It is true that we all, even if we stand alone, have a large respon-

sibility for the tasks we accomplish in the progress of humanity, but the work of the individual may easily be lost—its traces disappear more easily than if his work is embodied in an enduring organisation, within which the many energies become joined in one united power, the effect of which is apparent for decades or perhaps for centuries. Responsibility increases in proportion to the power and influence of an organisation.

It is a privilege and a personal distinction to belong to a respected

organisation, because a member is looked upon with confidence and respect, a confidence so great that the organisation is prepared to place its public reputation in the hands of the member, as well as the judgment of itself before history. This, and no less, is placed in the hands of the nurse when she becomes the member of an organisation. This is something to remember and to take to heart. It cannot, therefore, ever be asserted that the life and work of the nurse, even her private life, are solely her own personal affair.

The dutiful nurse with a feeling of responsibility can comparatively easily understand, therefore, how to subordinate herself to her responsibilities as a citizen, because she is already in her private actions a noble member of the community. She need only extend the limits of her interests and responsibilities, and her thirst for knowledge and devotion—and she becomes, in the best sense, a useful and active citizen. If the nurse adopts this enlarged task, with the ideals and sound traditions, with the feelings of responsibility and faith which have given her her respected place in therapeutics, then she will also within this larger sphere perform a useful and valuable task in the service of human progress.



Miss Tinaroni. Miss Senill. Miss Monongdo. Miss Macaralg.
OUR SISTERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

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