

whom she belonged. She was hired to a family when very young as a nurse for their baby. In addition to caring for the baby she was maid of all work. This was more than the young child could do. She was promptly returned to her master with the comment that 'she was not worth the salt in her bread.' After that Harriet was put to work in the field, and to do other laborious work, often being beaten, and kicked around by her master. Finally she could not stand this inhuman treatment any longer and decided that she would seek her freedom or die.

"In 1859 she made her escape to the North, travelling at night through unbroken paths. After her own escape she did not rest until she rescued her father and mother and landed them safely in Canada. Later she made nineteen trips back to the South and assisted more than two hundred slaves to free themselves from bondage. Harriet Tubman was one of the promoters of the Underground Railroad.

"During the Civil War she rendered incalculable service to the Union Army as a spy, scout, and hospital nurse. On March 10th, 1913, this faithful and loyal nurse crossed the bar. Her biographers made this comment: 'A nobler or truer spirit seldom dwells in the human form.'"

**The First Professional Colored Nurse.**

"So far as is known the first colored woman who prepared herself for professional nursing was Mary E. P. Mahoney, who graduated from the New England Hospital for women and children in 1879.

"Miss Mahoney was small of stature, about five feet in height, and weighed less than one hundred pounds. As a private duty nurse she was very successful in Boston and near-by towns, where she was usually employed by the best families.

"It was the writer's privilege to meet Miss Mahoney at the first Annual Convention of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses held in Boston, August, 1909. She was most interesting, and possessed an unusual personality and a great deal of charm. . . . She was an inspiration to the entire group of nurses present. At the close of the Convention she was made a life member of the Association, exempt from dues, and was elected chaplain . . . .

"Although nearly seventy years of age she seldom missed a national nurses meeting. Her last attendance was in Washington when the Association met in August, 1921, as the guest of the Freedman's Hospital Alumnae Association. This circumstance made it possible for the nurses to be received at the White House by President Warren G. Harding. The nurses carried a large basket of American Beauty roses which they presented to President and Mrs. Harding with the request that the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses be placed on record as an organized body of two thousand trained women, ready when needed for world service."

**Famous Schools and their Graduates.**

The chapter on "Famous Schools and their Graduates" is deeply interesting. Of training schools, two of the most noted are the Lincoln Hospital Training School for Nurses, New York, and the Provident Hospital Training School for Nurses, Chicago, which is registered by the State of Illinois and is of the same standard as that of the best schools in the country. One of its graduates, Miss Jessie C. Sleet Scales was possessed with a strong desire to become a district nurse. On making a careful survey along these lines, she learned that with the exception of the colored nurse, all nationalities were well represented in this capacity in New York City. Her associates claimed that to attempt anything along this line would be utterly useless, and were of opinion that if anything at all could be done it could only be accomplished through strong political pull.

She met with slight encouragement, but eventually was appointed by the Charity Organization Society for a two-months experimental period. At the end of a year, Dr. Devine, the General Secretary, congratulated her on the success of her work, and informed her that the committee willingly assumed all responsibility of salary, and that her name would now be recorded on their books. Miss Sleet remained with the C.O.S. as district nurse and visitor for nine years, doing excellent and constructive work when she resigned upon her marriage.

"History records this incident as the beginning of paid district nursing and social work in New York City by a colored nurse. The door opened at that time has never been closed. District Nursing is now an established speciality for colored nurses."

**The Colored Red Cross Nurse and the World War.**

Unwillingly we must pass over much of interest to refer to the part played by colored nurses in the World War. It was not until June 16th, 1917, that the National Com-

mittee on Red Cross Nursing Service decided that "Wherever there is opportunity for assignment of colored nurses for duty, they be enrolled for that service and assigned to that duty."

Miss Mary M. Roberts (now Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*), Chief Nurse of Camp Sherman when a detachment of colored nurses was ordered there, wrote of the work of this unit:—

"I do not mind saying that I was quite sure, when orders came for the colored group, that I was about to meet my Waterloo. My feeling now is that it was a valuable experience for them and for me. They really were a credit to their race, for they did valuable service for our patients, and it was a service that patients appreciated. I now find myself deeply interested in the problems of all colored nurses and believe in giving them such opportunities as they can grasp for advancement."



"AUNT HARRIET."  
Spy, Scout and Civil War Nurse.

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