

## THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

A Special General Meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons was held by kind permission of the Treasurer and Almoners, and of the Matron, Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., in the Nurses' Home at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C., on Friday, July 5th, at 3 p.m., to meet Miss A. Goodrich, R.N., Sc.D., M.A., Dean Emeritus, Yale University, U.S.A., who addressed the Association on the subject of Collegiate Nurse Training Schools.

The chair was taken by Miss Dey, Matron of the Hospital, in the unavoidable absence of the President of the Association, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, and expressed the great pleasure of the Treasurer and Almoners, as well as her own, in welcoming Dean Goodrich to the hospital, and also the international and national guests present, and said how much those present wanted to know about the Collegiate Nurse Training Schools in America.

### THE COLLEGIATE NURSE TRAINING SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dean Goodrich, who on rising was received with applause, said that she had a good deal of hesitation in speaking, for she did not know anything much more confusing than the nursing problem in the United States of America at the present time. Great Britain also had its problems, and she had been struck by the fact that the similarity of these in both countries were greater than the differences. Owing to the kindness of the Matrons of the leading hospitals in this country she had had the opportunity of discussing these problems with them. All were working with the same objective, how best to advance the nursing care of the people.

In the United States of America there were vast areas, sparsely populated; there were also great cities like New York, and there was the question of over-supply and under-supply. There were 7,000 hospitals in the country, and there had been over 2,000 schools of nursing, but a number of these were now closed down.

### STUDIES OF THE NURSING QUESTION.

Several studies had been made of the nursing question in America, notably "Nursing Education in the United States of America," which had been possible through the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation. Then a study was made of what was required for graduates in Public Health Nursing, and it was soon found, by those engaged in it, that they were needing an intensive study of undergraduate nursing education. It was very revealing, showing a great inequality in education. It was felt that it was necessary to have a broader foundation of basic education, followed by intensive nursing education under qualified teachers. Under the League of Nursing Education a curriculum was published, and in 1910, one of the most progressive institutions for teachers in the world—Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York—presided over by Dean Russell, a course in Hospital Economics was established through which women were prepared as administrators, and as teachers of public health. Later a Chair of Nursing was established, and they were indebted to Miss Nutting, who was appointed to this Chair, for a sounder professional programme in Nursing Education.

### COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL EDUCATION.

In the United States there was, she believed, a more comprehensive programme of general education than in other countries, culminating in courses in the State Universities. The progress of education had been influenced by the realisation by the State of its social responsibility; it felt that opportunities for good education

must be provided for all. There were therefore, amongst others, schools of journalism and business schools, and some 700 colleges and universities.

### THE PLACE OF NURSING EDUCATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

"Think," said the speaker, "of the place of nursing education in the educational system. Could not the Departments of Nursing in hospitals make some affiliation with a university?" She could never conceive why it was so difficult for the public to understand the importance of the connection of universities with the field of nursing. Here and there connections were being made with universities, and in the United States over one hundred universities and colleges had some relation to nursing.

Ninety per cent. of the Nursing Schools now required a full high school education, but the full preparation of young women for the nursing profession should not fall upon the hospitals, which must be relieved from carrying out a certain part of the nursing educational programme, though clinical experience in hospitals was exceedingly essential.

### THE COSTLINESS OF SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

More and more hospital authorities were realising the costliness of schools of nursing, and they were employing more graduates. Many graduates, however, felt they could not go back into hospital work under present conditions, but there was no question that, with proper hours, and economic security, a supply would be forthcoming. Many nurses had a peculiar love for bedside nursing, and many were specially good with children. The desire for this form of employment however might be killed unless the environmental conditions were suitable. Nothing was more important than the work of the hospital sister or nurse. It was a magnificent field which must not be lost to the graduate nurse. Yet at present while there was unemployment amongst nurses, there were hospitals which were under-staffed.

### PRELIMINARY EDUCATION IN CENTRAL COLLEGES.

Again, a certain amount of preliminary training should be given to nursing students before they entered the wards of a hospital. Not in a high school, that was not at all the place, but in central colleges. She instanced the organisation of nursing education in Finland where there were three central preliminary training schools and eight hospital centres, the training leading to a university degree.

A way must be found of teaching the sciences first then conferences might be held as to the future curriculum, which should include medical, surgical and obstetric nursing and pediatrics. Provision must also be made for the nursing of patients suffering from mental diseases, and we ought to remember Sir George Newman had said that every practitioner of medicine should be prepared in the field of preventive medicine, for the same preparation was necessary for nurses.

In the United States there was now an Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing.

Dean Goodrich emphasised the necessity for a constant study of nursing education, of educational methods and of scientific knowledge in this connection.

### HOW SCHOOLS OF NURSING ARE RUN.

In reply to an enquiry from Miss Cox Davies as to how exactly Collegiate Nursing Schools were run, Dean Goodrich said that at Yale there was a Faculty of Nursing appointed by the University, and the Newhaven Hospital, where the clinical instruction was given, was affiliated with the University. The School of Nursing had an administrative

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