

a new profession, but for the extension of the work now being done by nurses commonly thought of as working in the field of public health. As already suggested, I do not think that appropriate training can be provided with the machinery now at our disposal. I am convinced that this training should be placed, where many believe nursing education should long since have been placed, on an academic basis. The schools that should give this training will, I think, as a rule, have to be parts of well-established universities which already have as part of their organisation, medical schools and hospitals.

I should be hopeful that a carefully planned course could be compressed into four years, though there will be great temptation to try to put such a training on top of that now offered in the hospitals. This would, I think, be a mistake and will make it difficult to avoid waste of time and loss of balance and to provide a well-rounded, because single-minded, educational plan.

As I have already suggested, these people will be even more involved in what is properly regarded as the practice of medicine than are the trained nurses of to-day. We, in this country (the United States) have made but little use of the degree Bachelor of Medicine. This would, I believe, be an appropriate indication of their relation to medical service as a whole. It would suggest that they did not have the elaborate scientific equipment of the physicians, but, at the same time, would make it abundantly clear that they were involved in the practice of medicine and were essential cogs to anything approaching complete medical care in step with modern science.

I think this problem is urgent, for I am convinced that we shall find ourselves in the post-war period with an urgent demand for great extension of medical care and a supply of physicians and nurses who are not equipped by training or experience to carry out successfully important parts of the schedule. I am aware that the setting up of such schools cannot be done overnight, that it is not every university that can provide the equipment and environment and that there are still fewer that could face with equanimity the expense involved. I, therefore, humbly suggest that this is a major problem for the U.S. Public Health Service, and that funds to start and to maintain such schools will probably have to be provided by the federal government since I see no other agency that could set up the number of schools necessary and provide for their proper geographical distribution.

To those who believe that this is the vision of a starry-eyed idealist, I commend a thoughtful study of the evidence that the American people are ill-satisfied with the medical service now at their disposal, that there is an extraordinary unanimity of opinion at all levels to the effect that improvement of the service is long overdue, and that there is behind this conviction a weight of opinion that is likely to demand action.

*Editor's Note:* The *Journal* is greatly indebted to the *Modern Hospital* for permission to reprint this stimulating and provocative discussion of the future of nursing education. Dr. Cabot has been awarded the gold medal, given annually by the *Modern Hospital*. —Reprinted from the *Canadian Nurse*.

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth has consented to become the President of the Student Nurses' Association, which, let us hope, will lead to the re-establishment of safe and efficient standards of nursing in the future. What we now require in the organisation of Nursing as a profession is to encourage girls of conscientious character, inspired by a high sense of duty where the nation's standard of health is concerned, instinctive sympathy with their fellow-men when suffering disability from ill health in any form, and the spirit of self-denial. To qualify for national service in this connection is no easy task, and the spirit of the age, *self first*, inspired by avarice, so evident in our time, and which is responsible for this appalling war throughout the world, must be realised and condemned with tears of contrition before the Law of Christ inspires humanity, and the nations can suffer and be kind and live in peace.

Thus, the Princess Elizabeth, in accepting leadership of Student Nurses, will doubtless be made acquainted with the class distinction of the Student Nurse and the Assistant Nurse, and here Her Royal Highness will come face to face with a serious social problem, and will require an answer to the question by what right Ministers of State have promoted legislation enforcing class distinction, as made law in the nursing of the sick in the Nurses Act, 1943, promoted by Mr. Ernest Brown, late Minister of Health, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour.

To quote from the appeal of the British College of Nurses, Ltd. :—

"A Demand for Justice for the State Registered Nurse."

One recommendation which will, we presume, shock the community, is the proposed segregation and isolation of the Assistant Nurse pupil during training. It is actually proposed by the Royal College of Nursing "that the training of student nurses for State Registration and the instruction of pupil assistant nurses for enrolment be carried on in separate hospitals, or in separate parts of the same hospital, approved and inspected by the General Nursing Councils."

Such a recommendation, if applied, enforces intolerable class distinction, introducing in a work of mercy violation of the Christian law. The law of humanity, justice, equity.

In this connection, may we remind the Royal College of Nursing that laws stand on the Statute Book of this Realm prohibiting the making of, and the employment of, slaves by British subjects!

The King of this Realm is "the Father of His People," and in his association with them is one and indivisible.

Thus, the Princess Elizabeth must not be placed by the Royal College of Nursing in an invidious position, where, in the profession of Nursing, she is the protectress of the higher grade, the Student Nurse, as apart from untrained and semi-trained women, granted legal status to nurse the sick. We Registered Nurses, of course, indignantly resent that politicians entirely ignorant of professional nursing standards of efficiency

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