ABSTRACTS

SOME PROBLEMS OF NURSING EDUCATION

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THIS is an excellent analysis *by a physician* of the historical development of the profession, and of the present demands made upon it for "Not all of the criticisms of present day nursing are valid, but they are of sufficient importance to warrant investigation." Dr. Williams says, "It is believed that the average intelligent young woman of high school education can gain a sufficient amount of practical training within two years to become a well trained nurse." It can not be done if the nurses are exploited by the hospitals. It can be accomplished only by the proper utilization of the pupil nurse's time. The first problem to be decided is the pupil nurse's status, whether she is an underpaid employee of the hospital or a student in a nurse training school. If she is to be a student in a training school she will learn far more in two years than she can in three years in some existing hospital schools. Properly to employ the time of the pupil nurse there must be hearty coöperation between medical staff, nurse instructing staff, and hospital administration. The medical staff should permit certain nursing duties to be performed during the visits of the internes and of the visiting staff; the students' time should not be given up uselessly to watching demonstrations for medical students; and physicians should remember that only one nurse is needed to help apply an auscultation cloth. There is frequently too much time occupied by pupils in dusting, cleaning and bed making. After the pupil has once learned the importance of cleanliness in everything that pertains to the patient, and learned the art of bed making and cleaning a medicine closet, she need not continue this work daily throughout her entire course, but ward maids should be employed to assist in such non-educational work. Hours can then be shortened and pupils given opportunity for study and class work during the daytime. In order to remedy the obvious defects in many of the present schools, training courses *should be organized outside of the hospital* (italics ours), perhaps by the universities or medical schools, or by an independent organization; and arrangements made with the hospitals for paying the school a definite sum for nursing, which should be sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance of the pupils, and also an additional sum for the services rendered." Dr. Williams believes that it is

possible to put all of the fundamentals of good bedside or visiting nursing in two years, and that the schools should provide an elective third year for those who wish to specialize in various types of administration. However, he states that such a plan is not feasible unless "the school can utilize the hospital as a teaching center, instead of the hospital utilizing the school for nursing service. Neither is it feasible unless the plan has the hearty coöperation of hospital managers, medical faculties, training school superintendents, and hospital physicians."

TO PUSH NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

IT has been announced that the Amended Fess-Capper Bill, H.R.22-S.416, is to be actively considered during the coming regular session of Congress, meeting in December. This is the legislation which proposes that the National Government shall coöperate with the States in the establishment of a nation-wide programme of physical education, health supervision, and nursing service in the schools.

Both major political parties favored this sort of legislation in the preëlection campaigns and the Republican Party Platform contained the following declaration:

"A thorough system of physical education for all children up to the age of 19, including adequate health supervision and instruction, would remedy conditions revealed by the draft and would add to the economic and industrial strength of the nation. National leadership and stimulation will be necessary to induce the States to adopt a wise system of physical training."

Members of Congress have already been impressed with the fact that support for this legislation comes from a large number of health, educational, civic and fraternal organizations. The facts brought out by the Provost Marshal General regarding the physical condition of the draftees in the late war have aroused a universal popular interest in this subject. It is now well understood that the school should not only be a place for training the mind, but a place for training and protecting bodily health as well. The method proposed in the Amended Fess-Capper Bill is similar to that in which the Federal Government now coöperates in preventing forest fires, promoting agriculture, and building good roads.

Full information about the Campaign for Universal Physical Education in the Schools can be obtained from the National Physical Education Service, 309 Homer Building, 13th and F Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.