

recognize if she is to be a successful worker and friend. Combined with this she must know the various charitable and philanthropic agencies with which she will be obliged to co-operate. Laws of state and city must be familiar to her, and a thorough knowledge of the various allied activities going on around her and the people conducting the same. It is with this idea that the course has been mapped out.

The midyear examinations are past and the final ones are in sight, and when one realizes that, for the time being at least, college days are nearly over, the fact brings much regret; and more than one member of the class is taking away with her the troubled thought, "Shall I be able to come again?" This in itself answers the question, Has it been worth while? Even for such a brief time one cannot but feel the effect of the wholesome atmosphere of Teachers College, with its large body of students and the influence of the various professors, whose sole interest in life seems to be to help their students. No one can live there without becoming a very different being and carrying away with her a changed aspect of life. Nurses with their previous inelastic training are often slow to appreciate its freedom and privileges. I am glad to say they finally do, and on the whole recognize its value and see how much more effectual their services can be to their patients, whether in the ward of the hospital or in the private home. Each case becomes a living individual's, whose interests and care extend beyond the narrow walls of the ward.

A. R. O.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NURSE TO HER PROFESSION

DEAR EDITOR: There are many who think that on the day of their graduation the victory is won, but the battle has not been fought, it has but begun. They have but completed their training, which means a "preparation."

Upon our graduation day a newer sense of responsibility takes possession of us; we realize that ours is perhaps the most responsible of all work, being, as it is, a battle between life and death. Time and money can rectify the faults of others, but in caring for the sick, should a death result through *our* fault neither time nor money can ever bring back life.

Many times we are called upon to nurse those in the poorest classes in life, and from a superficial glance there may not seem anything especially inviting in this work; but pausing a while to consider, what a pleasure we can derive from caring for those poor neglected souls, casting a little ray of sunshine into their lives, and trying to make up for the life of poverty which, perhaps after all, was not of their own making. To soothe the weary sufferer, no matter what the affliction may be, and, yes, often to bring a soul to the remembrance of her God, is it not a work to be coveted?

Yet there are many who have not the least idea what it means to be a nurse. I had a sad experience of this sort very recently. I was called upon to nurse a lady, who told me frankly that before I came she would not allow a nurse inside her door. Her relatives had to insist upon her having one, for, if left to herself, she would willingly have died rather than be touched by a nurse. This all came because she knew of instances where a few nurses were black sheep and a disgrace to the profession. She had so little respect for one that she used to say the most insulting things in my presence. I should have given up the case only that I knew her people were very anxious that she should be taken care of, and I resolved to attribute her mood to her illness.

She forgot that there are black sheep in every fold. Was not Christ crucified between two thieves? Amongst Christ's chosen twelve was there not a Judas? And did Judas's presence there make the other eleven wicked men? We should never put down a whole profession for what its black sheep do.

It is too bad that we have so many black sheep, and the blame for this I lay entirely with those training schools that do not question closely enough into the character of their pupils before allowing them to graduate. When they see one whose actions are at all questionable, why do they not chase her from their midst? How many supervisors realize that *they* are responsible for many of the slanders which have been thrown at our schools, simply by permitting a nurse to finish her course when they suspect that at some time she will do something which will bring disgrace upon the school? To supervisors of training schools I say: "When you see one about whom there is a shadow of a doubt, why, why do you give her the diploma of your school and send her forth with the pin, the seal of your school, upon her bosom, so that when she does drag herself through the gutter people will look at her pin and know that she is a nurse and see the name of her school on the pin."

I remember an instance which occurred several years ago in one of our large cities, and I would that others would follow the example set there. One member of the graduating class was not all that she should have been, but through influence was being permitted to graduate. After holding several minor meetings her classmates finally decided to bring matters to a crisis, as it was then within a few weeks of graduation day. They laid the matter before the trustees, declaring that if Miss —— were permitted to graduate, she would graduate alone, as they all refused to have their names in connection with hers and would give up their graduation rather than submit to it. The trustees searched into the character of the offender, with the result that they drove her from the school within a couple of weeks of her graduation day. This is no fairy tale. I am personally acquainted with nurses who were in the school at the time and have the story from their own lips. When a nurse does wrong, people are not going to say, "Miss —— did this or that," they are going to say, "A nurse did this or that." We not only have the care of our own reputation to look after, but we have also that of the whole nursing profession. A great many nurses do not think of this. They do not stop to consider that what they do is going to reflect upon the whole nursing profession.

There is a lesson in all this for the public. When a nurse does wrong, it is the *woman* in her which does the wrong; it is not because she is a nurse. Why not lay the blame where it belongs?

MARGARET MARY McCLOSKEY, R.N.

CIVIL HOSPITAL AFFAIRS IN MANILA

Extract from the Ninth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior to the Philippine Commission for the Year Ending June 30, 1910. Received too late for Publication in the May Issue.

The work performed by the Civil Hospital Division has been of the high order heretofore maintained, and the death-rate has continued extraordinarily low. Full details of the work will be found in the report of the Director of Health, and I shall not attempt to summarize them. There is, however, one