

the senior class. The class to begin in the coming October will consist of about fifteen women and a few of the male nurses.

Looking backward over the work of our first two years, we say unhesitatingly that the results thus far obtained fully justify the needed expenditure of time and energy. While few are graduated, all, even the few who have not joined the classes, receive a great deal of instruction, the standard of nursing is raised, the general ward work is better done, the newly admitted patients are better cared for, the sick are better cared for, the clinical records are improved by the addition of the nurses' daily notes, charts, etc. The relations between patients and nurses are more satisfactory. The nurses themselves receive a training which offers them the opportunity of successful work in private nursing, and which will be of service in any walk of life which may be followed. And finally the reflex influence of the training and instruction is a beneficial one upon the medical staff, to whom falls the work of preparing the lectures and demonstrations.

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#### NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

##### *Report of Commission in Lunacy, Pennsylvania.*

The Report of the Committee on Lunacy of the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania for the year ending September 30, 1894, has recently been issued, and while containing much valuable information it is to be regretted that, like its predecessors, its contents are antiquated long before its publication. The most important subject considered in the report is the question of providing relief for the overcrowded hospitals, a question which has required almost constant consideration since the formation of the Committee on Lunacy, and one which has been a constant menace to the safety and well-being, as well as to the success in treatment of the indigent insane of Pennsylvania. On the 30th of September, 1894, there were in the state hospitals 5,232 patients crowded into institutions with a very liberally estimated capacity of 4,335, an excess of 897 patients. This excess is increasing at the rate of an average of 184 patients a year. In order to solve this difficult problem new institutions for the insane, of some nature, are necessary, and, "the question which confronts the present legislature is . . . what character of new institutions should now be founded and what special classes of the insane should occupy them." To answer this question the following suggestions are made :

(1) Another institution (asylum) for the indigent chronic insane, similar to that at Wernersville. In making this suggestion, however, the committee seems to ignore the fact that,

if the same restrictions are imposed upon the hospitals in sending patients to the new institutions, as in the case of Wernersville, it would be impossible to fill it from the patients in the hospitals. A large proportion from the population of the hospitals is made up from chronic cases that are usefully employed daily, but they are most of them not considered proper cases for the asylum for the "chronic" insane, and many of the best workers in the hospitals have been returned from Wernersville as unsuitable cases for the asylum.

(2) A State Hospital for the Epileptics, which would not only receive the indigent non-insane epileptics of the state, but also remove the insane epileptics from the hospitals. By this move it is claimed that 400 of the present surplus in the hospitals would be removed. At the end of the year there were only 400 epileptics in the hospitals for the insane, many of these being of the dangerous and criminal classes, and consequently in order to give this relief to the hospitals it would be necessary to place these cases in the same institution with the non-insane epileptics, which, to say the least, would be a move of doubtful expediency. While we would be glad to see an institution for the indigent epileptics in Pennsylvania; yet we do not believe that more than 30% of the epileptic population of the hospitals could be properly placed among the non-insane epileptics.

(3) "There is also an urgent need for an hospital for the dangerous and criminal insane." This plan which has long been looked upon with favor by the officers of the hospitals, would remove from their wards 91 insane convicts and 136 criminal insane, or a total of 227 of these objectionable classes, and also a large number of the dangerous chronic insane.

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