

lumbar vertebræ is the place generally chosen, as pus-cells, bacilli, etc., tend to gravitate toward the lowest portion of the dural sac where they might escape observation if the puncture is performed too high. With one finger on the spinous process of the fourth lumbar vertebra the needle is inserted just opposite about 2 cm. to one side of the median line and at an angle so that upon entrance of the canal it will be about in the middle. A small glass test-tube is held under the needle to catch the fluid. The needle must have a sharp point, because a dull point may push the membranes ahead, instead of going through them, and all efforts be fruitless. The pressure is determined by the rapidity with which the fluid appears; if drop by drop, then a low pressure. Too much fluid should not be withdrawn because of the dangers when there is too low a pressure. Clear fluid may not always be normal. A collodion dressing or sterile gauze with straps of adhesive may be applied after the withdrawal of the needle.

THE BOSTON NURSES' CLUB *

By SUSAN BARD JOHNSON

THE Boston Nurses' Club is an organization of nurses associated together for business, professional and social purposes. In its membership are represented the various training schools of Boston and its vicinity, and others beyond the state limits. In organization we find strength—we can have and do many things that we could not do or have singly. Through association we gain a wider outlook and the ability to see more than one point of view.

The club idea was suggested in the winter of 1899 by Dr. Pierce of Milton to Mrs. Emily Neal Morse, a graduate of the Boston City Hospital. The nurses took up the suggestion and held several meetings. At the meeting held on April 17, 1899, the Boston Nurses' Club was organized with the very material help of Mrs. William Sedgewick and of Drs. Conant, Coggeshall, Vickery, Sumner, Worcester, Twichell, and Cheney, who had kindly consented to act as Advisory Board. Dr. William Conant was elected president of the club; and he is the one member of the original committee who has served us unremittingly for ten years. The club registry was formally opened on May 22, of the same year.

In January, 1900, the books and furniture which had belonged to the Graduate Nurses' Association were presented to the club, and in March of that year a reading room was established.

* Read at the tenth anniversary of the Boston Nurses' Club, May 21, 1909.

In the fall of 1902 the club removed to its present quarters at 755 Boylston Street, where, beside the rooms that are used as office, lecture room, and reading room, there are sleeping rooms for some of the members.

The question of a real club-house has been discussed at almost all the annual meetings throughout the ten years of our existence, and we hope it will one day be an accomplished fact. It is generally conceded that a series of suites is best adapted for a club-house for nurses.

Of the club life it may be said that the business association in the registry, which holds the nurses together, is the foundation; our social intercourse, the flower; and our ethical purpose, the vital principle.

The club registry, by means of which the physician and public secure trained service, is to the nurse the door through which she gains opportunity for her chosen work. It is business headquarters. The club is also social headquarters, where a member will always find friends and interest; where she may play the piano in the pleasant reception room, or enjoy the current magazines in the reading room; where she may join in the social gatherings on the weekly tea-day, and in the pleasant entertainments that are given quarterly.

Our ethical purpose is to provide the public with reliable nurses and in every way to advance the profession of nursing. As each member is expected to pay her annual dues regularly, so she is expected to pay into the treasury of the club life devotion and earnest purpose—devotion to the ideals of the profession and earnest purpose to carry out those ideals in practical detail.

We know that we cannot be competent nurses if we rest in the achievement of our training; so, in addition to subscribing to the professional journals, we arrange for fortnightly lectures through the school year. In this matter our good friends the physicians have been most kind; and we are glad to take this opportunity of thanking them for their interest and good will.

On this our tenth birthday, we look backward and forward, with gratitude to all who have helped us on our way and with hope for the future, that we may go on to better things—to a larger sphere of usefulness and efficient service.

WHATEVER prohibits or prevents a man from his sacred appointment to labor while he lives on earth—that, I say, is the man's deadliest enemy.—THOMAS CARLYLE.