

MISS KRUEGER.—May I add that those of us who have just come from Miss Sly's bedside bring this message, that she is much disappointed at not being here to-day. I am sure she will be greatly pleased with this greeting.

The chair appointed the tellers and inspectors of election as follows: Bena Henderson of Chicago, Elizabeth Dewey of New York, Irene Yocum of New York, Emma A. Katz of Milwaukee, and Elizabeth Johnson of Chicago.

The committee on resolutions was appointed as follows: Margaret Whitaker, Linna H. Denny, and Margaret McKinley.

Moved by Mrs. Twiss to amend the by-laws by striking out Section 7 of Article I, which reads: "Any permanent member or charter member who has arrived at the age of sixty-two years may upon application to the Executive Committee be excused from further payment of dues, still reserving all the rights and privileges of membership."

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 by MRS. COLVIN.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE STANDARDIZATION OF VISITING NURSING

(Read by Mary Gardner)

IN January, 1912, a joint committee was appointed by the American Nurses' Association and the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, the members of the committee being Miss Delano, Miss Kerr, and Miss Crandall from the former, and Miss Foley, Miss Beard, and Miss Gardner from the latter. Miss Wald was made chairman, as recommended by the Superintendents' Society.

Four meetings of the committee with one adjourned session have been held in New York: on February 8 and 9 and on May 11, 20, and 21. One meeting was also held in Chicago on June 2.

It was felt by the committee that there is great need of standardization of visiting nurse work and that the time is ripe for the formation of a national visiting nurse association.

To that end the following letter was sent to 1092 organizations employing visiting nurses in the United States.

Within the last decade there has been a very marked extension of the work of the visiting nurse both in cities and in rural communities. Because the demand has been so insistent many organizations have been hastily established throughout the country without any conviction or knowledge on the part of the organizers as to certain fundamental requirements. Public spirited men and women, eager for the preservation of health and the dissemination of knowledge that would prevent disease and physical disaster, have perceived in the nurses' services the possibility of carrying out their ideals.

Since 1902 similar demands have been made by the state and municipalities which have engaged the nurse for medical inspection in the public schools, for milk clinics, in the tuberculosis campaign, for the inspection of midwives, in the effort for the reduction of blindness, for the control of contagious diseases, and other public health movements.

Large manufacturing and commercial firms have broadened their interests to include health protective measures for their employees. The innovation of nursing their policyholders has been introduced by a large insurance company. The intention of the National Red Cross Society to undertake rural nursing in communities hitherto neglected in this respect has just been announced. All of these measures have caused nurses with moral enthusiasm for social service and zeal for maintaining the lofty standards of their profession to recognize, from time to time, a potential danger in this eagerness to utilize the nurses' services, inasmuch as all hopes for the ultimate success of all these enterprises can only be realized through the preliminary education of the general public as to certain definite requirements involved, and through the work of well-trained and inspired nurses. Therefore some of the leaders in the nursing profession have been impelled to take steps for the establishment of standards of visiting nursing in the United States. Their conviction of this need has recently been expressed in the appointment of a joint committee, representing the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and the American Nurses' Association, with instructions to report at the annual conventions to be held in June, 1912, in Chicago, tentative articles of standardization.

The committee whose names appear below met in conference in New York City February 16 and 17, and are ready to present to the national bodies the report of their deliberations. They are convinced, however, that the time is ripe for the organization of a national visiting nurse association, and believe it is best to ask each local society in the United States to send an accredited representative to Chicago (the meeting to be held at 9.00 A.M. at the Auditorium Hotel on Wednesday, June 5, 1912) that this subject may be more fully discussed and further details of standards developed. The committee further hopes that such an association, if formed, will, as a corporate body, become a member of the American Nurses' Association, and thereby ally itself with the general interests of all nurses in the United States. The committee believes that such an organization will have the power to render valuable assistance and guidance to public spirited citizens, and to nurses who wish to share in the great campaign for public health.

The committee earnestly hopes that your society will send a representative who is a nurse, with power to participate in the discussion regarding these matters of great importance. If you determine to do so, will you kindly signify

to Miss Gardner, Secretary, 55 Eddy Street, Providence, R. I., the name of the nurse who will represent you.

(The letter was signed by the members of the committee.)

In sending out this letter every effort was made to reach all organizations of whatever kind employing visiting or public health nurses, but it was realized that so rapid is the growth of such work that any list is incomplete within a few weeks, as new societies and organizations are being started almost daily.

The following list gives the distribution of the letter:

Visiting nurse associations	205
City and state boards of health and education.....	156
Private clubs and societies	108
Tuberculosis leagues	107
Hospitals and dispensaries	87
Business concerns	38
Settlements and day nurseries	35
Churches	28
Charity organizations	27
Other organizations	19

Seventy-eight additional letters were sent to the different counties in which the Pennsylvania State Board of Health nurses are working and 204 letters to the nurses independently employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, making a total of 1092.

In answer 80 replies have been received: 69 expressing more or less enthusiastic interest in the movement. Seven had no nurse at present. Three merely stated their inability to send a nurse. Only one, a small association employing one nurse, expressed the feeling that a national association was unnecessary. Forty-eight agreed to send delegates for the meeting to be held on June 5 in Chicago. Sixty-nine delegates were eventually sent.

Two recommendations are made by the committee:

First: That a national visiting nurse association be formed which shall as an organization become a member of the American Nurses' Association.

Second: That certain standards be upheld and recommended to all organizations employing visiting nurses. These standards are as follows:

1. That the nurse shall be twenty-five years of age. That she shall be a graduate of a recognized general hospital of not less than fifty beds, giving a course of training of not less than two years, with obstetrics.

That a nurse applying from a state where state registration pertains shall be a graduate of a hospital acceptable to the state board of registration.

2. That newly organized associations or organizations be urged to secure nurses properly trained for visiting nurse work.

3. That while it is obviously impossible to state a desirable minimum salary for visiting nurses, owing to the great difference in the cost of living in different parts of the country, all associations are urged to pay such salaries as will secure and retain nurses of the highest grade.

It is also recommended that such salaries be increased according to length of service and executive ability.

4. That visiting nurse associations be recommended to adopt a suitable form of dress for their nurses.

To the end that a certain amount of time might be saved should the recommendation of the committee be carried out and a national visiting nurse association formed, a tentative constitution has been prepared which is herewith presented.

The committee after much consideration feels that, on the whole, the visiting nurse movement throughout the country would be more materially strengthened and advanced if the new association were composed of a federation of organizations, allowing also for individual membership, rather than that it should be an organization of individual members alone.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.—Name: The National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

ARTICLE II.—Object: To stimulate the general public and the visiting nurse associations to the extension and support of public health nursing service, to facilitate harmonious co-operation among the workers and supporters and to develop a standard of ethics and technic. Also to act as a clearing house for information for those interested in such work.

ARTICLE III.—The organization shall hold an annual meeting at the place and at the time appointed for the meetings of the American Nurses' Association. Special meetings of the entire body may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV.—Membership: There shall be three types of membership, namely, corporate members, individual members, and associate members.

Corporate members: Any organization engaged in public health nursing, whether a private society, a church, a business enterprise, a city or state board or committee or any governmental body shall be eligible for corporate membership provided that they conform to the minimum requirements for membership as established from time to time by this association, and shall be

entitled to one vote cast by a delegate in attendance who shall be a nurse and a member of the American Nurses' Association.

Individual membership: Any nurse a member of the American Nurses' Association engaged in active public health work shall be eligible for individual membership, which shall entitle her to the full power of speech and discussion at the meetings, and to the receipt of any literature which may be disseminated. She shall also have the power to vote.

Associate membership: Any individual not a nurse, or any nurse not actively engaged in public health nursing, or any nurse not eligible for individual membership shall be eligible for associate membership, which shall entitle her to the full privileges of speech and discussion at the meetings and to the receipt of any literature which may be disseminated. She shall, however, have no vote.

ARTICLE V.—Board of Directors: The association shall at its first meeting elect a board of fifteen directors, who shall be individual members, divided into groups of five, to serve one, two, and three years. At each annual meeting of the association, five new members shall be elected. The planning of work, the arrangement of meetings and conferences, and all other matters pertaining to registration and election shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI.—The association shall annually elect a president, a vice-president, and secretary, who shall be individual members, and who shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. A treasurer shall at the same time be elected. Five directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII.—Executive Committee: The Board of Directors shall elect from among their own number the Executive Committee, which shall consist of five directors with one member to act as chairman.

ARTICLE VIII.—Amendment: The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, such action being subsequently ratified by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at either a regular or a special meeting of the organization.

The matter of by-laws and the relationship of such an organization to the American Nurses' Association has been left for further consideration should a national visiting nurse association be formed.

LILLIAN D. WALD, Chairman.

The report on visiting nurse standards was accepted and referred to the Executive Board.

MRS. COLVIN asked Miss Delano to give a notice of the Congress of Hygiene and Demography.

MISS DELANO.—There is to be held in Washington in September an International Congress of Hygiene and Demography. It has been suggested that the organizations of nurses in the United States take some part in this congress. A special committee was formed, composed of Miss Wald and Miss Nutting, to suggest some manner in which nurses

could co-operate, and the recommendations were embodied in a letter sent out by Miss Wald.

This congress will be held in the same building recently occupied by the Red Cross, and is divided into several sections. It will be necessary to raise a considerable amount of money in order to carry on this work if it is decided to be done. It is a question which I think should be very carefully considered. Whether this can best be done at this time or by the Council is left, I think, for you to decide. It is certainly a great opportunity for nurses to take part in an international exposition which has to do with matters in which we are peculiarly and especially interested. It is to be regretted that this opportunity had not come before us a long time ago—I believe they have been making the plans for the congress now for nearly two years—for I think the nurses of America could have presented an exhibit which would have been well worth while.

MISS WILKINSON.—I move that this question be referred to the joint committee of the two societies. Carried.

MRS. COLVIN.—When this great association scatters, each of us going to her home, the one thing that keeps us in touch with each other throughout the year is the *JOURNAL*, which comes to us every month. I am going to ask now that Miss Palmer, editor-in-chief of the *JOURNAL*, give us a report.

MISS PALMER.—I have no report to place before you. I have only a few announcements and a personal message. First I want to give you greetings from my assistant, whom you all know, Miss DeWitt. I want to explain to you that the reason she is not here at this convention in her home city is not the work of the *JOURNAL*, but the fact that to-morrow she goes to Massachusetts to take part in the twenty-fifth anniversary of her graduation from college, at which time the members of her class are to be the guests for the week of the college; as she says, the occasion can never come to her again and she felt she must deny herself the pleasure of this meeting in order to enjoy the one which is coming.

When I asked Miss DeWitt, who is the chairman as you know of the Programme Committee this year, why she put me on the programme in this way to make a report, she said, "Well, you don't have to say very much. What I wanted to do was to get you up there so that all young nurses and the readers of the *JOURNAL* who had never seen you could know you by sight and speak to you." That is all I will have to do, just let you know who I am, but you must come and make yourself known to me before you go home. I want to shake hands with all of you who are readers of the *JOURNAL* whom I do not know and those

whom I do know; because you must remember that it is you whom we do not know, who send us the little personal messages from here and there, from the east and west and north and south, who give us the inspiration to carry on this work.

I cannot resist the temptation to make the announcement, which perhaps does not belong to me to make, that this JOURNAL is now the property of the American Nurses' Association. There is just one little legal technicality to be closed up, but all the stock, with the exception of one share, is now owned by the American Nurses' Association. Each individual nurse who is a member of an *alumnæ* association, a county society, a city association, or a state association, affiliated with the American Nurses' Association, is equally a partner in the business of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is the great enterprise of the American Nurses' Association. It belongs to you, each one, just as it belongs to me, and just as it belongs to the directors. No one of us has any more right to it than any other has.

You will find—perhaps you have already seen in the hotel, on the floor where you went to register—a JOURNAL table and on that table you will find various things for you to be interested in. If you want to subscribe or to renew, Miss Robinson will be glad to take your money; if you want to examine the twenty-three text-books on nursing written by nurses, sample copies of them are there. There are two text-books on nursing very soon to come out that I want to speak of here; one by Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsberry, which is now in press, and of which I have a dummy, as we call it in the trade, which I am going to put on that JOURNAL table to-day. It came to me last evening. It gives the cover and a number of pages which are mostly blanks, with the preface, and about half of the first chapter. I am sure it will attract your curiosity to know what is coming after. That was as far as the publishers could get with the book in order to have it here in form that you might see what the outside was going to look like.

Then there is a second book, which I know you will all be interested in, on private nursing, which Miss DeWitt has just completed and will have ready for the press in a very short time. I believe this is going to be the book on private nursing—a book which has been needed for many, many years. We have nothing like it; because it is written out of her fifteen years' experience as a private nurse.

Now just a word about this business of yours, this JOURNAL. I am not going to spend any time talking about the past. You all understand the history of the JOURNAL. We have been twelve years getting it into the hands of the American Nurses' Association and you have all had a part in it. You have all in some way contributed to its success, either

financially or in some other way. This JOURNAL has come into your hands with a good reputation. The only thing that is said against it is that it swings the greatest influence of anything in the nurses' profession. It has come to you on a good business basis without any debts. It has come to you with a small reserve fund with which to carry it forward. It has been a great factor, I am sure you will agree with me in saying, in all the different nursing activities which have made such a gathering of nurses as we have here possible. It was established in the beginning not to compete with other magazines in the field, not to try to run them out of business, not to interfere with them in any way, but that we might have a medium through which our own nursing standards and our own nursing ideals could be placed before the world and be distributed among ourselves unrestricted by the influences of any other body of people.

In the past the direct responsibility of the success of the JOURNAL has been in the hands of a comparatively small number of people, all of them members of the association, but still a small group. Now it is in the hands of this whole body. These twenty thousand members making up the American Nurses' Association have a direct responsibility in its development in the future. You all know what I think you ought to do for the development of the JOURNAL—I have been telling you twelve times a year for twelve years and you don't want to hear it now.

We should make this JOURNAL of ours the greatest women's magazine in the world. Where is there another journal owned and edited and managed by women that is anything more than a little newspaper? I do not know of anything else in the form of a woman's magazine that compares with ours, and I say unblushingly that I think it is the greatest journal that any group of women have ever put forth.

There is just one side of the future of the JOURNAL I want to speak of. When Miss Davis was sitting at her desk, filling out the incorporation papers of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, she saw a vision. She saw in some then unknown and still unknown great centre of this country, in a beautiful street, among groups of publishing houses, one building with a great glittering sign across its front and that sign read, "Publishing House of the American Nurses' Association;" and she saw within those walls offices of different kinds and on one, "Headquarters of the American Nurses' Association;" and on another "Headquarters of the National League for Nursing Education;" and on another, "Headquarters for the National Association for Public Health Nurses;" and so on—a great many more of such offices than we can dream of now. Then she saw a business section of this building with

hundreds of presses working all the time, day and night, under the most approved sanitary conditions, where every kind of book relating to nurses, relating to public health, relating to everything that has to do with the welfare of the people, was being published under the management of nurses in every way. And she filled out those incorporation papers so that that business can be developed without the slightest obstacle or the slightest waste of time in any way in accomplishing it. Now we have made one little beginning toward that vision of hers, and that is in owning and editing our own JOURNAL, and then in a smaller way beginning to carry on for the benefit of the nurses over the country what we call our book business. I want you to get into the habit of turning to the JOURNAL for everything you want. Of course you in the big cities can make just as good financial arrangements for buying books as you can with us, but those in the far distant places can find it to their advantage to order their books through the JOURNAL, and those of you who are loyal to the JOURNAL's interest and want to help in the development of the practical reality of Miss Davis' vision should always place your orders with the JOURNAL. I do not mean to tell you what we can do, what the nurses of the future will be able to do with the revenue which will come to them from this JOURNAL business. If we had money, we could accomplish almost everything that we want to accomplish. We could have exhibits, we could bring influences to bear here and there where there are abuses to be corrected, we could keep interstate secretaries and state secretaries always in the field. Now we can make this JOURNAL bring us revenue to do all that kind of work, not one cent of it more than is necessary for its needed development year by year to be used for the JOURNAL and the balance to be used for promoting the cause of nursing education and the higher ideals and higher standards which we have before us. Those of to-day have no idea what the future may give to us through the influence of what they call the little green book.

Now one last word, a very personal word. 'This JOURNAL is my child. Do not go away until you have come to me and told me who you are and where you live and whether you read the JOURNAL or not—I do not say whether you subscribe to it—but if you do not read it, why you do not read it.

MRS. COLVIN.—As Miss Palmer said she had no report to make, and she seemed only to dream dreams and see visions before us here to-day, I do not think we have to do such a practical thing as to accept her report. We simply have to thank her over and over again for all that she has done.