

Miss Richards is now in her 75th year, and though obliged to walk with the help of a cane, is wonderfully like her old self. She responded to the toast, Pioneers, at the beautiful dinner given at the Hotel Brunswick, and was able to be taken over the hospital in a wheeled chair, to be present at the lectures and, for a few minutes, in the operating room. We had the good fortune to have taken a number of splendid photographs of Miss Richards, standing in the great central corridor of the hospital where she first demonstrated her wonderful executive and organizing ability. Miss Richards radiated happiness and enthusiasm on this occasion in a way that was most beautiful and inspiring. After all her long years of pioneer work for the establishment of training schools on a proper educational basis, in spite of obstacles, opposition and disappointments with which she, as well as all others, had to contend, she is, though no longer able to take active part in nursing affairs, optimistic for the future of our profession, believing in all that nurses are doing for higher standards of training which lead ultimately to better hospitals and to more efficient care of the sick, both in institutions and homes.

#### THE QUESTION OF MEMORIALS

It was our privilege to sit next to Miss Richards during the dinner and to hear her voluntarily express her views on the wisdom of continuing to establish funds as memorials to our pioneer workers. She has, at our request, put her thoughts into writing for our JOURNAL readers, as follows:

In the September JOURNAL, under the head of Editorial Comment, I find an item on Memorials and I notice that at the convention held at San Francisco in June last, the question of continuing to establish memorials for our deceased members was extensively discussed among members outside the meetings and the question, How can we commemorate by the establishment of funds all the pioneer nurses? was frequently asked, and I, who was not present at the convention to hear the discussion am led to ask, Why should funds continue to be established? The pioneer nurses are yearly dropping from the ranks and the constant establishment of new funds would soon lead to confusion and would, in time, become a serious tax upon nurses throughout the country. Are we sure that those who have passed away would wish memorials? There are some of the pioneers now living who would feel badly did they think that when they have gone from earth some of their friends would feel it a duty to start funds for memorials for them and that every now and again all nurses would be urged to contribute to these funds.

Pioneer nurses will live in the hearts of the members of our profession long years after they have passed away. We respect the feelings of those who wish to honor the departed pioneers by fitting memorials, but appreciation of their good work and influence for good, shown them while they are with us, would, I am sure,

mean far more to them than memorials after they have passed away. Some few of the early graduates have received honor; one by having a beautiful new nurses' home named for her; another by having a club composed of superintendents of training schools in New England named for her. This recognition, which is honor now, will, when they are no longer with us, become splendid memorials.

I sometimes wonder if we, in our zeal to raise funds for memorials for those who have gone, have forgotten to look about us to see if there are not some who, because of illness, have seemingly dropped from the ranks and with never a note of encouragement from sister nurses. I know of such a case, an early graduate of one of our oldest and best-known schools, who did excellent work in new training schools and in hospitals till compelled by illness to drop from the ranks and become a patient in a ward for incurables in one of our large hospitals. An occasional letter of cheer would mean much to her and a little financial aid would add much to her comfort. Let us by all means hold our departed members in grateful, loving memory, but let us not forget to minister to the suffering members who are still with us.

We have had one of the photographs taken at this time enlarged to portrait size, with a special view to its being framed and hung in nurses' homes and class rooms all over the country. No greater honor could be shown Miss Richards than, during her life time, to have the pupils in training schools in this country thus made familiar with the features of "America's First Trained Nurse." These portraits can be ordered from the Editor of the JOURNAL.

#### A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL WELFARE

Nurses engaged in different branches of social service are keenly alive to the importance of the establishment of dental clinics for children. Many cities have such clinics in connection with dental colleges and dispensaries, but no city had established a system which in any way filled the needs of the community until the completion, recently, of the Forsythe Dental Infirmary in Boston. This is a liberally endowed institution which aims to provide free dental service for all the children requiring it, in the city, and at the same time gives a training to a class of women dental assistants to be known as dental hygienists. In the first announcement for the training of young women over eighteen for this new field of work, the educational requirement is fixed as graduation from a high school giving a four-year course. This is interesting in view of the difficulties which nurses have had in attempting to fix educational standards for state registration. The period of study is for twelve months, for which there is a fee of \$50. There is also to be a department for regularly registered nurses for which there is to be a fee of \$25. The latter course, as we understand it, is to fit nurses of exceptional ability to fill the position of supervisor and teacher of the younger women who are to become dental hygienists.