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FOUR NURSES GET DIPLOMAS

The First Graduating Exercises of the Training School with the Allentown Hospital Were Held in the Lyric Theatre Yesterday Morning—Address by Dr. Davies.

The first annual commencement of the training school for nurses in connection with the Allentown Hospital took place in the Lyric Theatre yesterday morning. The attendance was good and more than ordinary interest was manifested in the proceedings. The stage was beautified by a profusion of potted plants and flowers. The closest attention was given each number on the program and proceedings, serving to bring those present in closer relations with an institution which has already done so much good in the community.

The three graduating nurses, Misses Mabel Evelyn Brown, Elsie Gertrude Evans and Elizabeth Estelle Kratz, were dressed in white and wore the official insignia of their profession, a small white, jaunty-looking cap. The rest of those who occupied the stage were Drs. C. S. Martin, R. E. Albright, C. J. Otto, A. J. Yost, W. H. Hartzell, Daniel Hiestand, M. F. Cawley, George W. Romig, H. Y. Horn, W. B. Erdman, H. W. Riegel, C. D. Schaeffer, J. T. Butz, ex-Judge Harvey, William P. Moyer, R. S. Leisenring, J. R. Gossler, Rev. Dr. S. A. Repass, John E. Lentz, J. F. Hunsicker, Rev. Dr. A. R. Horne, Abraham Samuels, Rev. R. D. Naylor, Rev. J. F. Pollock, Rev. Dr. A. R. Bartholomew, Rev. J. W. Knappenberger and Rev. Dr. James A. Little.

The exercises were opened at 10 o'clock with prayer by Rev. J. F. Pollock, followed with music by Klingler's Orchestra.

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Rev. Dr. J. A. Singmaster, president of the Board of Trustees, then followed in a speech in which he gave a brief history of the institution from its very inception, the difficulties which were encountered and overcome, the amount of money raised and the fact that though the hospital cost \$40,000 to erect, there is not a dollar of debt resting on it. After further eulogistic remarks he introduced the speaker of the morning, Dr. Edward P. Davis, Professor of Obstetrics, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

DR. DAVIS' ADDRESS.

Dr. Davis' address is given in full below:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: It is appropriate that at this time of the year, when other institutions of learning are holding commencement exercises that the training school of the hospital should celebrate the completion of its course of instruction and graduate this class. We are accustomed to think of a hospital as an institution devoted entirely to works of charity and mercy in the care of the sick. While this is the great function of a hospital, it has another which is scarcely less important. We are often rewarded for faithful effort in this life by what we learn rather than by what we receive. Many an undertaking has failed to achieve what its proposer hoped and expected, but has yielded experience and information which later on resulted in great benefit. In medicine, knowledge and experience are the capital of the nurse as well as of the doctor, and any institution which yields this return in addition to the care of the sick performs a double function.

"In response to the kind invitation of your trustees extended by my friend, Dr. Schaeffer, I have come to congratulate you who graduate upon the privileges which now become yours. Winning a diploma in such a school is much like receiving a valuable gift or winning an inheritance. It is not inappropriate to consider a little what this gift or inheritance is.

"Experience and knowledge yield little of value unless opportunity offers for their employment. You have experience and knowledge and to-day begins your opportunity. Hitherto you have been working for the city in whose hospital you have served. Your remuneration has been experience and knowledge and the gradual development of your character and powers. Hereafter you work not only for your own development but you will receive pecuniary reward and a higher prize—the esteem and affection of others.

"This opportunity which becomes yours is far greater than that of ten years ago. America has become a world of power and as the soldiers of Pennsylvania have done duty in the Philippines and in China, so the nurses of Pennsylvania have followed the flag into foreign countries. A Philadelphia nurse was upon the Hospital Ship "Maine" and went to South Africa to care for English soldiers. Others from this State were in the service of the United States during the Spanish war. The geographical extension of the influence of the country gives its nurses opportunities hitherto unknown.

"The profession of which you now become established members is far different from the nursing of ten or twenty years ago. As medicine has become more complex, and as doctors divide themselves into specialists, so nurses learn by experience what they best can do. Surgical work is more done in hospitals. Serious cases of all sorts are referred to hospitals whenever possible, and the nurse in private practice has less opportunity than formerly to do surgical work. To some, hospital work is far more attractive than private, because of its regular hours and the facilities afforded for its thorough performance. If you are fond of this sort of work choose it; you should connect yourself with some hospital in any capacity which offers and study and perfect yourself in hospital work. The field of private nursing is gradually subdivided by the varying qualifications of different nurses. Some are especially fond of medical work; others delight in the care of children, while others prefer to attend cases of confinement. You cannot, however, set up as specialists upon graduation. You must do as young doctors are obliged to do, take what you can get and be thankful to get anything. Then when you have well done all the work you can get you will gradually be able to choose and finally to make a reputation in some one branch of nursing.

"Your heritage of opportunity points to financial return and the earning of a comfortable living. Here again you may have to put your pride in your pocket and again take what you can get. You will find it hard to convince people that because you have been in a hospital you are worth much more than what is termed 'a natural nurse.' Experience will show that a natural nurse is a kind person with little knowledge, great zeal and a fund of experience which sometimes guides rightly and often leads astray. If you cannot get what you think you ought to have in the beginning because the circumstances of your patient may be moderate, if the patient appreciates your work and acknowledges its worth, take what you can get and in another case where the circumstances are different, charge your full price. In the long run, you will acquire a lucrative practice in this way rather than by insisting upon your greatest compensation in the very beginning.

"You must, however, insist that you and your profession be respected. Should any one attempt to lower your dignity or that of the profession of nursing, you may abandon such a person at any time. Occasionally you are obliged to refuse the opposite extreme, as in the case where a foolish but grateful patient gave a nurse a very expensive diamond ring. The intention was good, but the gift most unsuitable and

foolish. Gems cannot adorn the hand of skill and mercy and nothing can increase the dignity of a good and faithful nurse.

"We are accustomed to think of nursing as a prosaic, laborious kind of work with few opportunities for excitement or adventure. This is scarcely an adequate idea, for emergencies frequently arise in which nurses have an opportunity to display all the qualities of the soldier and of the hero. During the past winter, a nurse was caring for a mother and her infant in the supposed security of their own home. As dusk approached, a careless servant in attempting to light the gas, in the parlor, set fire to the curtains and thus to the house. The servants were too frightened to put out the fire or to think of their mistress. Before the nurse could be informed, the stairs were in full blaze. The patient became excited and tried to throw herself from the window. She was held back by the nurse who kept her from the smoke and flames until ladders could be raised and the mother with her child in her arms was taken to a place of safety. The nurse barely escaped with her life. A short time ago, on a quiet afternoon, the training school of the Jefferson Hospital was engaged in the duties of the wards and in listening to a lecture. Without a moment's warning, a terrific explosion in an adjacent building shattered the windows and set fire to the roof. Not a graduate nurse faltered, but each was at her post before the order could be given, controlling frightened patients and seeing that each was taken to a place of safety. Such was the violence of the explosion that nurses were hurled across a room when the explosion took place. That no patient was injured was due largely to the coolness and devotion of the nurses.

We have at the Philadelphia Hospital a medal in the shape of a bronze cross awarded for personal bravery. On one occasion a night nurse in charge of a large ward discovered an insane patient hanging in a bathroom attempting suicide. The woman was black in the face and almost dead. There was no time to summon help and the nurse cut down the patient and resuscitated her before sending for assistance. She received the bronze cross, a token of the bravery of her action. Nursing then is not a humdrum and prosaic thing but offers opportunities for courage, bravery and devotion equalled by few avocations.

"Personal element in the nurse is often a most important and interesting one. You are to deal with human beings, with sick and trying patients and with anxious friends and relatives. It will not do to judge oftentimes of the actions of others but rather of their motives. Cruel and unkind things are very rarely done purposely but through a blunder or lack of tact. If you remember this you will excuse the anxiety of relatives and by showing them that you care for the patient they will naturally care for you. If you can please the servants of the household during an illness you achieve no mean success. Remember that the happiness of the household is largely in the hands of the cook, who has an especial hatred for trained nurses as persons who disturb the fire, make much washing and wear a cap. You will remember the prayer of the loyal Englishman, 'God save the Queen and the cook,' and if it be a matter of time, save the cook first. If you can in a measure answer this prayer, you will receive corresponding gratitude.

"But this is not all of nursing. To do good work, to keep out of debt, to lay up a little, to keep one's health, to be respected is indeed a great success but there are things greater than this. Wear your profession as you do your uniforms. Both are becoming to you, both give dignity and grace, but neither your uniform nor your profession is you. Your technical work may be perfect, your uniform spotless but you may be a cold-blooded, conscienceless person whom no one loves. Unless the trying experiences of your lives teach you patience, gentleness and kindness, you cannot win the highest reward of your profession as a nurse. It is good to be a good nurse; it is better to be a good noble woman. You have the rare distinction with the doctor of having it in your power to be the friend of everyone who approaches you. To do this, a high standard of personal character must be attained. At a recent graduation, the nurses took the hypocritical oath essentially which binds the medical profession to the high standard of integrity. To do no harmful thing to the patient, to betray no confidence, to be loyal to the physician who employs you, to care for one another when in distress, to maintain at all times your self respect; such are the essentials of this noble oath. Whether you will be spoiled by petting or treated as a menial, you will be superior to each and above all endeavors to lower your standard. So the years will find you not only a wiser and better nurse, but a nobler and better woman."

Dr. Davis held the close attention of his audience during his entire speech. The spoken word was no less interesting than Dr. Davis' charming manner of delivery and he was frequently interrupted by applause and laughter.

After music by the orchestra Rev. Dr. Singmaster, in a speech in which he congratulated the nurses on their achievement, on the fidelity and faithfulness with which they discharged their manifold and onerous duties, and their personal worth and high character and their ladylike deportment and behavior, presented them with their diplomas. Then followed an incident which was not down on the program. After Dr. Singmaster had presented the diplomas he, in behalf of the Circle of the Silver Cross, King's Daughters, presented to Miss Mabel E. Brown, the first honor medal, of gold. The medal is encircled by a wreath of oak leaves. In the centre is a convex disc bearing a red cross and the date of the year, 1901, and the following words: "Allentown Hospital Training School, First Honors." Miss Brown's average was 95.14. The exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. R. D. Naylor.