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The Morning Call

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The Allentown Morning Call 7-2-1915

BRILLIANT ASSEMBLAGE FOR 16TH COMMENCEMENT OF NURSES' COLLEGE

Eleven Young Ladies Graduated With Exercises Marked by Many National and Patriotic Touches

Class of 1917, Nurses' College, Allentown Hospital, Who Were Graduated at the Commencement in the Lyric Theatre Last Evening



Top Row, Left to Right—Blanche Forner, Topton; Ethelid C. Calwell, White Sulphur Springs, Va.; Della Quigley, Grampton, Pa.; A. E. Oberholtzer, R. N., Assistant Directress of Nurses; Mary R. Haertter, Lancaster; Blanche E. Fink, Allentown; Mary E. Kyle, Chambersburg; Edith N. Dout, Boyertown. Front Row—Florence Gehris, Allentown; Rose E. Johnson, Phillipsburg, N. J.; Alma M. Viehdorfer, R. N., Directress of Nurses; Gertrude B. Schultz, Trexletown; Daisy C. Minnich, Slatington.

Suggestive of the large part that the modern hospital plays in wartime and the possibility that the Allentown hospital may become one of the nation's finest hospitals for the treatment of injured and sick in the war was conveyed at the sixteenth commencement exercises of the Edward Harvey Memorial College for Nurses, held in the Lyric theatre last evening. Everywhere the national colors were in evidence, displayed in flags and bunting, and on the stage were seated almost a score of the leading local officers in the National Guard, together with prominent visiting officers. All were in uniform.

The nurses in their beautiful dress of white, with white caps and the bright red linings of their capes; the soldiers in their trim khaki uniforms; the hospital staff togged out in white, and the board of directors and prominent visitors in evening dress, were the colorful picture whose background was an abundance of flags and banks of flowers.

Apart from the beauty of the scene presented by the participants in the commencement and the significance of the occasion, the commencement was marked by the presence of the most distinguished body of men and women that has ever graced any commencement in this city. Of the State Board of Medical Examiners there were present Miss Giles, of the German Hospital; Miss Cabrook, of the Woman's College; Miss West, of the Municipal Hospital; Dr. Blackburn, of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Hickby, of Philadelphia. Of the state board of education there were present Dr. Johnstonbaugh, of Bethlehem, and Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, the secretary of the board. Judge Harry Schaeffer, of Reading, and Judge Frank N. Trexler, of the Superior court, were notable representatives of the law. The U. S.

A hospital service was represented by Dr. Harry Welker, head of the 27th unit hospital, known as the Frazier Hospital, which will leave shortly for France and which is now mobilizing in Belmont Park, Philadelphia. The local military was represented by General O'Neill, Col. H. C. Trexler, Col. E. M. Young and others. Lt. Charles D. Lockwood, who will be in charge of the local mobilization camp, was among the officers, together with Dr. R. E. Thomas, who represented Major Gregory, of the 13th Regiment, who had been called to Scranton.

For this fine picture and this notable gathering there was a program in keeping with the splendid occasion.

James F. Hunsicker, president of the board of trustees, presided in capable fashion and the music was by the Allentown Band, under the direction of Prof. Martin Klingler. Rev. Robert Nott Merriman, pastor of the Church of the Mediator, offered the invocation.

Miss Mary M. Barrett, soloist in the Broad and Arch Street M. E. Church, Philadelphia, and who has become very popular locally thru several appearances here, sang a beautiful soprano solo, capably accompanied by Warren F. Acker, director of the Nurses' Chorus.

Statistics of Hospital.

A. Samuels, secretary of the board of trustees, gave the statistics of the hospital for the year beginning June 1, 1916. These showed that the cost of maintenance during the year was \$163,677.95 and the average cost per patient per day \$1.88. Pathological examinations to the number of 12,397 were made during the year and there were 577 X-Ray investigations. The religious faith of the patients was as follows: Catholic, 705; Lutheran, 661; Reformed, 567; no church, 301; Evangelical, 156; Methodist, 110; Presbyterian, 96; Episcopal, 77; Hebrew, 61; Baptist, 41. Other denominations were a score or less. The hospital has bills payable totalling \$117,319.

On June 1 there were 146 patients in the hospital. On May 31, 1917, there were 155. During the year there were 2,013 surgical cases, 679 medical cases, 29 obstetrical cases, 50 births,

and the total number of cases admitted was 2,841.

During the eighteen years of the hospital's existence 22,123 cases were treated and the hospital promises to pass the twenty-five thousand mark during the year.

The average number of patients during the year was 151 per day and each patient remained on an average of twenty days. The hospital has 206 beds but at no time were less than 124 occupied.

The percentage of charity patients treated during the year was 72, and these patients spent a total of 33,912 days in the hospital. The income from pay and part pay patients during the year was \$70,132.96.

Two musical numbers were then given. "When Life is Brightest" by the Nurses' chorus, and a number by the band.

Hon. E. J. Cattell.

Hon. Edward J. Cattell, statistician of the City of Philadelphia and one of Allentown's very good friends, delivered the address of the evening in his usual happy vein. This grand old man of the Quaker City had a fund of the brightest stories, which he wove into a eulogy of the career of the trained nurse, her relationship to the present era of readjustments thru world-wide war and the duty of all mankind, service to one's fellowmen. He summed this up in epigrammatic manner: "The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world a life."

He saw in the present struggle of this nation forces that will turn this nation from a restless one into an unresting one which will be the greatest friend of mankind, realizing its responsibilities and leading the earth into new ideas. "That is why I am prouder than ever before to be an American", said the grand gentleman as cheers came from the entire house.

He told of the marvelous discoveries of science and medicine whereby hundreds of thousands of men are saved in the European war who otherwise would have died; how disease has been checked and epidemic prevented. "These are things to think of for they are valuable to mankind. Let us see if we can not each day give somebody reason to thank God that we are here on earth."

"Let's see if we can't get in touch with God's heart, which is the heart of the people. Let's be bringers of sunshine. Stop talking of our wrongs and see others' good. Let's realize every day is a great opportunity for us to live.

"This is the time for big men and a big nation to act in a big way. May we give the Declaration of Independence and Liberty to all the nations and may it be our prayer that the great God has given us the task of bringing Heaven nearer earth."

Appeal to Graduates.

Dr. C. D. Schaeffer, head surgeon of the hospital, made a splendid appeal to the eleven graduates of the class of 1917, pointing out the great need of heart in the profession of nursing in addition to technique. He impressed the sacredness of the confidences of patients and urged all to keep away from professional jealousies and anything tending to warp the soul. He asked that they never forget their duty to society and their greatest opportunity to help for others and battle against the forces of ignorance and disease in the world.

He then presented the diplomas to the following young ladies: Blanche Fink, Florence Gehris, Allentown; Ethel Caldwell, White Sulphur Springs, Va.; Della Quigley, Gramplan; Mary Kyle, Chambersburg; Ethel Dout, Boyertown; Blanche Forner, Topton; Rose Johnson, Phillipsburg; Daisy Minnich, Slatington; Gertrude Schultz, Trexlertown; Mary Heartter, Lancaster.

Awards of Prizes.

The prizes were awarded as follows: Silver Circle of the Kings Daughters medal, to Miss Ethel Dout, average, 96.78; M. T. J. Ochs medal for second highest average in the three years.

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BRILLIANT ASSEMBLAGE AT COMMENCEMENT OF NURSES' COLLEGE

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work, Miss Gertrude Schultz, average, 95.31; A. Samuels' prize for highest average in ethics and mode of nursing, Miss Mary Heartter.

To every graduate a class pin was presented by Dr. Schaeffer.

The nurses reciprocated some of the good things said of them by Dr. Schaeffer by presenting him with a basket of roses and to Miss Viedorffer, the superintendent of nurses, they presented a gorgeous bouquet of American Beauty roses.

After music, the pronouncing of the benediction by Rev. George P. Stem, of Siegfried, and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, the audience adjourned.

Following the exercises in the Lyric, the nurses and guests were taken to the Nurses' College in automobiles, where a reception was held. The Jass band furnished music for dancing until midnight. Refreshments were served. Many patrons of the hospital who were in the audience attended the reception.