

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

The Opening of the Training School for Nurses.

By WILLIAM BAYARD, M. D.

LADIES :

The success of a hospital depends largely upon its management, upon its medical staff, and upon its nursing staff. Each are links in the chain ; if one is weak, the whole fabric must suffer.

The commissioners and medical staff have been educated for their work, and it is the wish of both that the nursing staff shall be placed on an equal footing with themselves. The commissioners have, therefore, deemed it advisable to establish a "training school," with the view of educating you for the calling you have embraced. The medical staff will from time to time instruct you upon various subjects connected with your duties ; and I will now invite your attention to a few general remarks upon Nurses and Nursing.

Since the period when Dickens portrayed "Sairey Gamp," a great change has taken place in the public estimation of "nurses;" and properly so. This change is largely due to the example and teaching of Florence Nightingale, who still lives to witness the result of her good work ; to the fact that, as a class, they are more refined and better educated ; to the feeling that the calling has assumed the position of an art ; and to that love of humanity which induces many heroic women to abandon home comforts and social pleasures, to embrace a work with few attractions and many hardships.

The good nurse of the present day is truly a "ministering angel" in the sick room. She may be found in every