

At the Sign of the Maple

A NEWS DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

Winnipeg Training School for Nurses

THE Winnipeg Training School for Nurses has just turned out a graduating class of twenty-eight to add to the 313 other graduates who in the past twenty-five years have therein received preparation for their profession. The Alumnae of the General Hospital gave these twenty-eight young women a dinner in the magnificent new Fort Garry hotel the week preceding their graduation, and on that happy occasion many interesting facts about the Training School and its efficient superintendent, Miss Frederica Wilson, were touched upon by the various speakers. Nothing, perhaps, was more noticeable at this function than the very genuine affection and admiration expressed on all hands for the quiet-browed, soft-spoken, but steadily-firm woman whose word is law in the hospital and training school.

It was in January, 1905, that Miss Wilson first took up her big task in the Winnipeg Hospital. The whole staff of nurses in the hospital and training school at that time consisted of 84 pupils, an assistant night supervisor, and a nurse in charge of the operating room. The hospital accommodated in those days but 256 beds. To-day there are 478 beds and a nursing staff of nearly 150, besides an assistant superintendent, a night superintendent, instructor of nurses, five head nurses, two social service nurses and a specialist in each of the following departments: Diet Kitchens, Children's Department, Eye and Ear, Maternity, and Operating Room.

This growth has not been accomplished, needless to say, without a deal of hard work and strenuous endeavour on the part of everybody concerned in the management of the institution. A glimpse back into conditions as they were when Miss Wilson became superintendent of the hospital will serve to give one some idea of just what has been accomplished.

The Superintendent's Task

AT the start, besides the supervision of the nurses and the training, Miss Wilson had to see to all the house-keeping, to the kitchens and cooking, to the overseeing of the work of the men and women employees, to the laundry, and to the sewing-room, where all the uniforms and linen were made up. There was only one helper in the house-keeping department, and she was not thoroughly efficient, partly because she was always overworked like all the other members of the staff. Then, too, the nurses were housed in a thoroughly unsatisfactory way. Their quarters were in a part of the hospital building which was set apart for incurable tubercular patients, between whom and themselves there was only a thin partition. Even at that, the accommodation was so inadequate that night and day nurses had to occupy the same rooms, while rooms which were meant to hold only two beds were crowded so as to hold three and four. Then there were no class-rooms for the conduct of a proper training school for the nurses, and no one to teach them except the overworked superintendent and her equally overworked assistants.

One of the very first things done by Miss Wilson was to request the Board to provide better quarters for the nurses, as she realized that if her staff was to be efficient they must be not only well fed, but well housed and cared for. She succeeded in having the tubercular patients moved to a separate building and the place renovated so that it was both safer and more commodious for the nurses.

A Menace Removed

A SECOND request was that young pupils should not be asked or required to attend the tubercular patients of an advanced state, but that older women should be engaged who were both experienced and graduates. This, too, she was granted, and the arrangement has been kept up until very recently, when the city removed all such cases to a special hospital provided for their care, thus relieving both the congestion and the worry at the General Hospital.

The new superintendent then turned her attention toward the establishment of a proper training school for the nurses and to the raising of the standards of both efficiency and entrance. This sounds easy, but only those who have tried at any time to raise standards or to divert things in an institution into new channels can have any adequate idea of the work which was involved. Owing to the phenomenal growth of Winnipeg, the hospital was in a continual

state of over-crowding, and at all times the accommodation in the old buildings was inadequate. So that Miss Wilson found herself confronted with the necessity of thorough reorganization in all departments, such reorganization being contingent on the erection of a Nurses' Home and other buildings.

The struggle to attain proper accommodation went on for several years, but in due, or rather long overdue, season the housekeeping staff was provided with comfortable quarters, a fine Nurses' Home was built and equipped, and several new wings were added to the hospital, the biggest and best thing completed only last December.

The Present Machine

GRADUALLY, then, Miss Wilson was enabled, with the willing and always amicable co-operation of the Board, and that wonderful organization, the Woman's Hospital Aid, to accomplish all



MISS FREDERICA WILSON
Superintendent of the Winnipeg Training School for Nurses.

the culinary, sanitary, household and staff reforms which she felt to be so badly needed if the hospital were ever to become what it should be, and the nursing corps a well-trained body of life-savers, such as should come out of a first-rate institution.

With the foundations thus better laid, and the domestic economy of the hospital running more satisfactorily, Miss Wilson was able to elaborate her



THE WINNIPEG TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES
Which Has Just Turned Out a Graduating Class of Twenty-eight Members to Add to the Three Hundred and Thirteen Nurses Who Had Graduated Already from the School.

schemes for the training school for the nurses, and one has only to go over the thoroughly equipped class-rooms of the present ultra-modern nurse factory to appreciate the measure of her success. And then it is her pride to think that the graduate of the hospital is to-day its best recommendation, though owing to the very rapid growth of the hospital there are never enough probationers.

In Miss Gray, the Instructor of Nurses, the school and hospital is particularly happy, as she is not only an excellent teacher, but is also a woman of strong character and high ideals.

Of the Social Service department of the hospital, we in Winnipeg are particularly proud, as it was the first of its kind to be instituted in Canada. Under Miss Bradshaw the work of following convalescent

poor patients to their homes and seeing that they are properly cared for, has proved of inestimable value, and in addition to the experience gained by the undergraduate nurses in the Margaret Scott Nursing Mission, they have this inspiring example of the finest kind of social service to act as an incentive to high ideals in their profession.

Of Miss Wilson, Herself

BUT, indeed, in Miss Wilson the Winnipeg Hospital has a high-minded superintendent of nurses who has the faculty of attracting to the institution where her work lies, women of calibre. And whether it is the housekeeper, cook, supervisor, dietician, special nurse, or what not, all give cheerful, willing, honest and efficient service to one who not only demands these qualities in others, but exemplifies them to a superlative degree in herself.

Miss Wilson was born in Goderich, Ontario, and was educated there and in Brandon, where her father, a retired sea captain, later moved. She took her training as a nurse in Winnipeg and Albany. Though not a Manitoban, she has become, in the passage of the years, so identified with Winnipeg and the West that we are proud to claim her as our own and proud of the institution of which she is so valuable a part.

PHILISTIA.

Recent Events

MRS. BULYEA, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, and honorary president of the Women's Canadian Club of Edmonton, invited the members of the club, last week, to a reception at Government House, given in honour of Mrs. Jessie Alexander Roberts, the well-known reader who is a visitor in that city from Toronto.

The highest honours for skating at the recent competitions of the International Skating Union of America, held in New Haven, were won by the two Montreal experts, Miss Chevalier and Mr. Norman Scott.

According to the address of Dr. J. W. Robertson, recently given before the Women's Canadian Club of Ottawa, vocational education for women and girls is a necessity under present social conditions. "In Ottawa," he said, "at the present time, there are 5,200 young people between the ages of fourteen and seventeen in contact with no educational work, and in all Canada 387,000."

Professor Carrie Derick, of McGill, recently appeared before the Montreal public in the up-town English-speaking section to appeal to the voters in behalf of Major Stephens, who is the mayoralty candidate in whom the members of the Local Council of Women have placed their trust.

In Victoria, B.C., Mrs. Justin Gilbert was recently elected as a member of the School Board, with a lead of three hundred and thirty-eight in a bye-election.

The Women's Canadian Club, of Vancouver, was addressed recently by Dr. Wesbrook, on "Home as the Bulwark of the Nation."

The outcome of the attendance of ladies at the recent dinner of the Edmonton Industrial Association was the formation of a ladies' auxiliary to that body, a committee of five being named to formulate plans. The object of the Association is to clean up and beautify the city.

Mrs. Adam Shortt, president of the Local Council of Women of Ottawa, recently addressed the Household League in its open

meeting. Among the important matters brought forward were: the need of improvement in market conditions, the protection of food stuff, the wisdom of urging the Council and Controllers to erect a municipal abattoir and to establish the tuberculin test for cattle.

The Charity Organization of Montreal, of which Lady Drummond is president, and Rufus D. Smith, general secretary, has submitted a petition to the members of the Quebec Legislature asking for the establishment of a "court of domestic relations" to act in conjunction with and form part of the juvenile court of Montreal, to deal specially with cases of desertion and non-support.