

ing orders, dates back to Johannes Gossner, of Berlin, who founded a "Woman's Society for Nursing the Sick" in 1833. This society sent previously instructed or trained nurses into homes not only in Berlin, but at a distance. He disliked the title "deaconess" and employed the term "pflegerin" or nurse, which is now in general use.

To Theodor Fliedner, however, is the credit given of popularizing nursing as a career and profession. Florence Nightingale herself made a pilgrimage to Kaiserwerth, and spent some time in the Fliedner School and familiarized herself with their methods and manner of treating the sick.

It is a fact, not widely known, that Dr. Valentine Seaman, one of the medical staff of the New York Hospital, instituted the first system of instruction to nurses on this continent. He organized a course of teaching in 1798, and gave a series of 24 lectures, including outlines of anatomy, physiology, and the care of children.

Nursing has attained the position of a practical scientific profession only in recent years. An important law in biology is that the excessive growth of any organism leads to its division. So in nursing. As the course of training lengthens and new opportunities for usefulness are presented, a tendency arises to specialize even in nursing. The name of your hospital suggests this thought, and to-night I wish to discuss very superficially the important period of childhood.

John Fiske has shown that of all animals, man has the longest period of infancy. This is true not only as to the actual time involved, but proportionately to the natural duration of life. This period of plasticity is the factor which has permitted man to rise so far superior to the other animals. The life of the codfish is a simple one. It is chiefly concerned with securing food and avoiding danger. It has little to learn from experience and requires no education. It has no infancy. The young puppy is quite helpless at birth, but his infancy is short, and he soon crystalizes into an adult dog. From a study of comparative biology, it is noted that the higher the intelligence of the adult animal and the more complex its life activities, the longer is its infancy or period of development. Fiske was right when he said that "it is babyhood that has made man what he is" and "out of the helplessness of the infant comes the helpfulness of man."

The keynote of this period is development. One-third the life of the individual who completes his three-score years and