

ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE GRADUATING
CLASS OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES
OF THE WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOS-
PITAL, SYRACUSE, N.Y., MAY 30, 1908.

By HENRY L. K. SHAW, M.D., ALBANY.

It was with some hesitancy that I accepted the invitation to give the graduating address this evening. I felt you were entitled to better treatment at the hands of your hospital staff, and while I question the wisdom of their choice, I feel and appreciate the honor of this occasion. As a physician I take pleasure in congratulating the members of the graduating class of the Women's and Children's Hospital on the completion of their course of training.

Medicine and nursing have and always will be, closely allied. In the parable of the Good Samaritan you recall how the Levite or lawyer and the priest studiously avoided the sick, wounded man, while the Good Samaritan, who was then, as now, a physician, bound up his wounds, took him to an Inn—it may have been a hospital—and provided a nurse.

The Jewish race had a wonderful insight into the value of sanitation and preventive medicine. The laws ascribed to Moses are not excelled by the most sanitary code of to-day. Jewish societies were founded with the sole purpose of visiting and caring for the sick long before the advent of Christ. In the early Christian Church some of the women workers were especially concerned with visiting and nursing the sick. St. Paul speaks of the deaconesses whose chief duties were the care of the poor and the sick. They ranked with the clergy and were ordained by the bishop. Phoebe was perhaps the first deaconess, and was a friend of Paul. He testifies to her ability as a nurse in that "She hath been a succourer of many and of myself also." She is credited with having started the work of the deaconesses in Rome when she made her visit there, taking with her the letter from Paul to his friends.

Until recently most of the women who devoted their lives to this work took upon themselves solemn religious vows and belonged to certain orders. The daily self-sacrifice of these women, the extent of which will never be known, constitutes a bright spot in the dark ignorance and superstition of mediæval medicine.

Systematic nursing, outside of distinctively religious nurs-