

EARLY LEADERS OF AMERICAN NURSING


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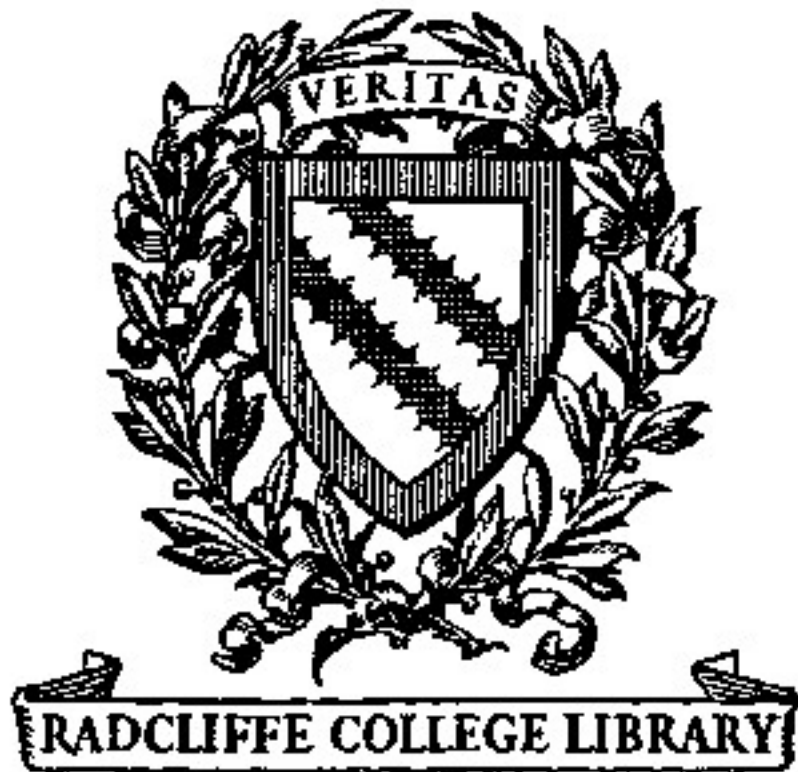


*Entrance to old Bellevue
Mother of American Schools of Nursing*

*Gift of the
Lavinia L. Dock
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WOMAN'S ARCHIVES

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FOREWORD



This little booklet preserves in more permanent form the photographs and biographical sketches which originally appeared in the Nursing Calendar of 1922. These nurses represent the outstanding personalities of the pioneer period of American Nursing—the women who guided and inspired the early stages of that work and endowed it with their indomitable spirit and imperishable ideals.

The special significance of the cover sketch of old Bellevue's entrance lies in the fact that just fifty years ago this door opened to receive the first of these nursing leaders and educators, Sister Helen. Bellevue Hospital of New York has been so closely associated with pioneer nursing efforts in this country and its training school sent out so many of our earlier nursing leaders, that it has come to stand almost as a symbol of the nursing revolution which wiped out the unspeakable abuses of the old hospital regime and established even in the most disorganized and corrupt city institutions, a humane, skilled and responsible nursing service.

It was due largely to the efforts of this remarkable group of women whom we here celebrate, that the new Nightingale system of training was firmly planted in American soil, and having successfully weathered the opposition and hostility of those early days, spread over the whole country. It took a Spartan type to accomplish what these women did. In the words of one of them, "They were a strong determined and intrepid set of workers, full of energy, and the uncompromising spirit of the reformer. Their work was largely housecleaning on an extended scale. They warred against physical dirt and disorder, against immorality, irresponsibility and political corruption. They regenerated the moral atmosphere of the early hospitals and banished coarseness and vulgarity, neglect and indifference. They were often stern, often severe, sometimes hard, but no one can realize what they did who knows nothing of the conditions grappled with."

Published by

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION

370 Seventh Ave., New York City.



SISTER HELEN

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Fortunate was it for the future of the nursing profession of America that the women chosen as superintendents of the first schools of nursing were women of experience, high ideals and executive ability. Such a woman was Helen Borden, known as Sister Helen, who came from the All Saints Sisterhood, London, a Protestant order in charge of the nursing of University College Hospital. On a leave of absence she had come to Baltimore, Maryland, to establish a Sisterhood, but learning that a committee of women were endeavoring to establish a school for nurses in connection with Bellevue Hospital, New York City, she applied personally to Mrs. Hobson, a member of the Committee, for the position of superintendent. Mrs. Hobson in "Recollections of a Happy Life" says, "My servant announced that a person who looked like a Sister of Charity wished to see me. A woman with a most rigid conventual garb entered the room. At first sight she was very unprepossessing but she spoke and the beautiful trained English voice dispelled the unpleasant impression. After a long conversation, I made up my mind that her experience would be invaluable to us, and she had been at one time in charge of a Workhouse Hospital, the condition of which corresponded to ours. I asked her to meet our committee next day, meanwhile telegraphing to Baltimore for information. The reply was satisfactory in regard to her ability and experience, but 'she had a temper.' It struck me that in that hospital a temper might be a desirable quality at times. At all events the ability and experience were what we needed and the result proved that she was just the woman we required. The severe conventual garb of black serge, the close coiffe and veil, the crucifix at her side and the calm commanding manner imposed obedience upon patients and commanded respect from doctors and attendants. Her knowledge of hospital politics proved invaluable in her intercourse with the hospital authorities."

Sister Helen took charge May 1, 1873. The requirements for entrance to this first nursing school were of a high standard, that these standards were maintained under difficulties the following figures show. Twenty-nine applications for entrance were received during the first seven months, ten of these were rejected—118 were received during the second year, of these 29 were accepted but only twenty remained longer than the probation month. The first class of six nurses was graduated in 1873.

Sister Helen remained at Bellevue for three years, returning to England in May, 1876. Later she nursed in English hospitals in South Africa, returning from there to the Home of All Saints Sisterhood, London, where she died a few years ago.

That both hospitals and training schools for nurses in America owe a debt of gratitude to this noble woman cannot be doubted. Coming recently from England where Florence Nightingale was inaugurating her new system of nursing training she brought with her to this country those high ideals for the profession of nursing, together with the practical experience and knowledge that made it possible to revolutionize a hospital such as Bellevue was in those early days.



LINDA RICHARDS

LINDA RICHARDS

Pioneer Nurse, Teacher, Organizer of Training Schools, Missionary, Home-keeper, Advisor and Friend.

Born in New York State, educated in the Public Schools and Academy of Vermont, where she later taught school.

First graduate of the New England Hospital Training School for Nurses, Boston, Massachusetts, September 1, 1873. Night Superintendent of Bellevue Hospital Training School, when this school was in its infancy.

Organized the Training School of the Massachusetts General Hospital; an interesting account of nursing conditions at that time may be found in her book.

Miss Richards then spent several months in the hospitals of England and Scotland and had the honor of visiting Miss Nightingale in her London home, as well as at Lee Hurst, her country home.

Returning to America Miss Richards organized the School for Nurses at the Boston City Hospital, leaving at the end of eight years to go to Japan as Missionary under appointment by the American Board of Missions. Her five years' service bore fruit in the organization of the first school of nursing for Japanese women.

Following some time spent in Visiting Nursing in Philadelphia, Miss Richards organized the Training School at the Methodist Episcopal Hospital at Philadelphia; from there she returned to Boston as superintendent of her own hospital, the New England.

Followed the work of reorganization of the Training School of the Homeopathic Hospital of Brooklyn, N. Y.—the Superintendency of the Hartford Hospital Training School and the reorganization of the School for Nurses of the Long Island Hospital, Boston Harbor, later associated with Miss M. E. P. Davis at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

A period of work in hospitals for the insane followed, which marks the organization of schools in State Hospitals, changing the character of the nursing staff from attendants to nurses trained in that special work, with affiliation with general hospitals. This work was carried out in organization of schools in the Taunton and Worcester State Hospitals—and reorganization of the Kalamazoo, Michigan School; in all over ten years service for this important branch of nursing.

Miss Richards is a member of National and State Nursing bodies, and served on many important committees in the early days of organization.

In 1911 Miss Richards published "Reminiscences of America's First Nurse."

With retirement, her life is still spent in service, the influence of the courageous, helpful spirit goes out to her own hospitals where she serves as counsellor; to training schools who welcome her as an honored guest and to her nurses and friends who value her counsel and sympathy.



ALICE FISHER

ALICE FISHER

On June 14th, 1839, Alice Fisher was born in the Queen's House at Greenwich, England, in the apartment that had been at one time the residence of Henrietta Maria, Queen of England. At the time of her birth her father, Reverend George Fisher, R.N., F.R.S., was instructor of mathematics in the Royal Naval School. Her grandfather had been Head Master of Eton College at Windsor. The women of her race were remarkable for beauty and social charm. The men were notable educators and deeply versed in statecraft. From these sources Miss Fisher drew her literary tastes, her ability to concentrate her mental energies upon large problems. The traditions of her family were influential in molding her mind into the remarkable combination of thinker, dreamer and executive.

For some time before her father's death Miss Fisher devoted herself, with the help of her maid, Emma, to his care during a long illness. After his death, she resolved to enter the Nightingale School, and in January, 1875, believing she would find in service greater happiness than in the field of literature, she entered St. Thomas' Hospital as lady probationer, her maid, Emma, enrolling as a nurse probationer at the same time. A year later Miss Fisher became Assistant Superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Later she was Superintendent of the Fever Hospital at Newcastle. Following this service she was for five years Superintendent of Addenbroke's Hospital, Cambridge. Her next post was in the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford, which she left to assume the duties of lady matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham.

When destiny drew Miss Fisher to America in the autumn of 1884 to reclaim from misery and neglect the pauper sick of Philadelphia, she was equipped with a well rounded experience in phases of disease as well as in knowledge of the intricacies of institutional management. Feminine graces masked her bold and indefatigable spirit; never over confident, or unduly elated with the small conquests that fell into her hands one by one, she moved on to larger ends. Deep and stable was the foundation she laid for the training school for nurses of Philadelphia General Hospital, but her real power was felt far outside the massive walls which in her day harboured over four thousand people.

When her physical powers began to decline, although confined to her couch she continued to carry on her obligations within and without the institution, supported by the never failing inspiration which she found in the seventh chapter of Job, from which comes the text on the stone that covers her grave. She died in 1888 and is buried on the slope of the cemetery which adjoins the scene of her labors.

A tribute to her memory from one of America's greatest Surgeons voiced public sentiment: "Her work was extraordinary, both in its amount and in its quality, showing a masculine force and breadth of understanding with a feminine tact and insight into character which made her one of the moving forces of any community in which she lived and which places her among the remarkable women of her time."



LUCY LINCOLN DROWN

LUCY LINCOLN DROWN

Born in Providence, spent her early life in Rhode Island; was educated in Massachusetts and gave her young womanhood to the education of its youth.

Entering the Boston City Hospital, she remained in one or another of its departments for five years, then became its superintendent of nurses, continuing as such for twenty-five years.

To her pupils and graduates she is known as a gentlewoman of the old school, whose stern New England conscience demanded more of herself than of any other; whose invincible spirit carried her past the handicap of a frail body to success; whose organization, through her power, assumed the precision of a geometrical figure; whose leadership was forceful and compelling; whose example pointed the way to industry, loyalty and righteousness. She gathered about her a body of young people devoted to the Boston City Hospital and to the highest ideals of nursing, one of its cardinal virtues.

Command of the English language and discriminating ability in its effective use was one of Miss Drown's greatest accomplishments. Her arguments were logical and convincing and her discipline could never be replied to nor ignored. If her creed for nurses were written it would doubtless read somewhat as follows:

I believe nurses were created for the sick; either for prevention of illness, or for the care of those afflicted thereby, and all their instruction and practice should ultimately lead thereto. I further believe that for this high calling should be chosen young women with the physical, mental and moral power to keep ever before them the ideals of their profession and the duty incumbent upon them to realize these ideals. I believe a nurse should be progressive, but should not worship strange gods; that she should be studious but not confined to books. I believe she should be upright in her dealings with all, unselfishly devoted to her patients and unprejudiced in her attitude toward the world, with its nations, races, isms and creeds.



LOUISE DARCHE

LOUISE DARCHE

Born 1852, at Lampton Mills, Ontario, Canada, was a qualified teacher at eighteen and became Principal of St. Catherine's High School. She thought of studying medicine, but instead, entered Bellevue in 1883. Her influence brought Isabel Hampton (later Mrs. Hulter Robb) there. Private duty and executive work filled two years.

On January 1, 1888, she assumed a most difficult and delicate task as Superintendent of the Training School connected with Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, now known as City Hospital on Welfare Island, New York City. Reform influences had compelled the politicians in control to accept a reorganization of nursing on the Island. Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, for the State Charities Aid, sought a Superintendent at Bellevue, and Miss Darche, for her great mental ability, was chosen. With her went Diana C. Kimber to share the task, and the loyal devotion of these women to each other and to the highest ideals of human betterment resulted in such close co-operation that the work of one is almost inseparable from that of the other.

For ten overweighted years Miss Darche's intellect was pitted against the corrupt practices of a most powerful machine, and victoriously, but health and life were forfeited. A character of perfect uprightness and sincerity, a bearing somewhat austere and distant, a nature of rare sweetness, fidelity, and simplicity, she was unsurpassed in intellectual generalship. She originated a complete plan for a City Department of Nursing and worked toward it. That the passing years have brought no greater wisdom to bear on the problem is evidenced by the fact that the city authorities are today trying to bring about an organization similar to the plan she originated.

Active in early organization and educational effort, she was the first Secretary of the Superintendents Society, and in 1896 first proposed a "Nursing Journal."



DIANA CLIFFORD KIMBER

DIANA CLIFFORD KIMBER

Was one of a well-known family of Oxfordshire, England, and had received a liberal education in both England and Germany before she came to this country. She entered Bellevue in 1884 and at the end of her training accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Illinois Training School, resigning in order to serve as assistant to her friend and classmate, Louise Darche.

All the problems connected with the up-building of the Island School (there was only one at that time) were studied equally by these two women, and the plans evolved were the result of their combined judgments. Passing years have heightened our appreciation of their complementary qualities and the high plane of their friendship. It was Miss Kimber's keen desire to help her students that caused her to write the text-book which bears her name, and which was one of the first scientific books by *a nurse for nurses*.

When Miss Darche's failing health obliged her to resign, Miss Kimber was appointed to succeed her, but remained only long enough to finish the work of the school year. In May the two went to England. Up to the time of Miss Darche's death they were constantly together, and all the love and skill Miss Kimber was so capable of were lavished on her friend until the last.

After a few quiet years at home Miss Kimber joined an Anglican Sisterhood, whose work among the poor is similar to that of our own Public Health Nurses. A letter from England tells of Miss Kimber's continued good health, of her joy in her work, and of her interest and pride in the achievements of nurses. Her message to her friends and former students is to "Carry On."



ANNA CAROLINE MAXWELL

ANNA CAROLINE MAXWELL

Was born in Bristol, New York, in the year 1851. Her early education was carried on at home and in private schools. When just twenty-three she accepted the position of Assistant Matron at the New England Hospital, Boston, Mass., where she received her training in Obstetrical Nursing. In 1876, she entered the Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses, then in charge of Linda Richards, our first American nurse.

After graduation Miss Maxwell started a Training School at the Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada; leaving there she spent some time visiting and studying in England. Returning to this country in 1881 she assumed charge of the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School, where she remained for eight years, during this time accomplishing a great work where old traditions prevailed and many prejudices had to be overcome.

In the latter part of 1891, she completed the organization of the Training School for Nurses in St. Luke's Hospital, New York City.

January, 1892, Miss Maxwell accepted a call to establish a School of Nursing in the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, where with the support of Mr. John S. Kennedy, President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Frederick Sturges, Chairman of the Training School Committee, Dr. C. Irving Fisher, Superintendent of the Hospital and others, she was able to conduct the work along exceptionally broad lines and develop a wonderful spirit of co-operation and good fellowship.

A foremost member of all influential Committees for the higher education of nurses, her work was so recognized by the Governors of Columbia University that in 1917 the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon her, making her one of the first women in the history of nursing to receive such an honor. She was active in work during the Spanish-American war.

July, 1921, Miss Maxwell completed a term of over twenty-nine years as the guiding spirit of the Presbyterian School of Nursing. As long as one of her graduates lives her name will bring a thrill to the heart and awaken a host of loving memories of the time spent under her guidance.

From her earliest years a leader, gifted with a magnetic and winning personality, she is sympathetic, just and generous, never ruled by sentiment and blessed with a great simplicity. An inspiring teacher, a wonderful organizer and promoter. With an insight into the great possibilities of the nursing profession, ever ready to overcome difficult obstacles, she has been a power as well as a pioneer.

Not only her own but all nurses hold her in the highest esteem. A helpful friend, full of vitality and energy, yet never too busy in the midst of her strenuous every day life to give time in abundance to anyone wanting or needing counsel, advice or encouragement; her influence has gone beyond our own, into other Nations, and will live for many years to come.



ISABEL ADAMS HAMPTON

ISABEL ADAMS HAMPTON

Born in Welland, Ontario, of English parents, endowed rarely with strength and sweetness; married in 1894 to Hunter Robb, M. D., and suddenly taken from life in 1910 at the height of her powers and beauty, had taught school in her teens; graduated from Bellevue in 1883, spent two years in Italy at St. Paul's House, and been chosen Superintendent of the Illinois Training School in 1886, thence called to organize the school of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1889. Gifted with organizing powers, a passion for professional education, and a love of executive tasks, she was eminent in the early upbuilding of the national associations of Superintendents and Alumnae. The vision and the first steps were hers that brought the Teachers' College course into being.

In 1893 at the World's Fair in her chairmanship of the Nursing Section she planned the program of papers which guided progress for years in many directions, and by her leadership there, attained international renown. Her ardent enthusiasm never flagged. After marriage, she was one of the professional group who, with prominent laywomen, secured the passage of the Army Nurse Corps bill, which provided that the Corps must be directed by a nurse. Less well known was her devoted and untiring service in the construction of an affiliation plan for organized nurses and the American Red Cross. Though her plan did not develop during her life it is in effect now existent.

For several years in her Cleveland home she was chairman of the Committee on Nursing of the Board of Lady Managers of the Lakeside Hospital, and took an active part in the organization of the Training School for Nurses at the City Hospital. Especially devoted was she to the founding and extending of the Visiting Nurse work. Author of many notable articles, her books are: *Nursing, Its Principles and Practice*; *Nursing Ethics*; *Educational Standards for Nurses*.



LAVINIA LLOYD DOCK

LAVINIA LLOYD DOCK

Born in Pennsylvania, 1858; educated private schools. Crusader and benefactor. Mildly socialistic in theory, in practice an ardent philanthropist; by choice an apostle of the democratic idea, really a spiritual and mental aristocrat, and perfect independent in every action. An early and continued women's suffragist.

A nurse since 1886, when she graduated from Bellevue Hospital; served there as night superintendent one year. Went to the rescue of yellow fever sufferers at Jacksonville and of Johnstown flood victims. Assistant Superintendent of Nurses, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1890, by request of Isabel Hampton; resigned 1893 to become Superintendent of Nurses, Illinois Training School, remaining two and a half years; while there laid the foundations of the three years' course in nursing. A member of the staff of an early group of nurses at the Henry Street Settlement, 1896, and having previously, in the later eighties, engaged in district work with the City Mission of New York; thus takes rank as a very pioneer public health nurse; remained as resident at Henry Street until retirement in 1916.

Usually first-seeing, always far-seeing, Lavinia Dock in nursing has meant inspiration, leadership, guidance. An arresting speaker, eager attendant at meetings, secretary for several years of the Superintendents' Society and otherwise burden bearer for nurses, her mark rests upon the American Nurses' Association, the League of Nursing Education—on every effort of ours to pitch nursing standards loftily.

Secretary through many years of the International Council of Nurses, she has reached out to all nursing, encouraging, admonishing, always helping. She has translated, corresponded with foreign societies, visited these in every European country, making five trips for this purpose, 1899 to 1912. Editor since 1900 of the Foreign Department in the American Journal of Nursing, she has brought understanding to widely scattered groups of nurses, and in vivid comment, wrong has here had its castigation, right been always justly praised.

A painter with charming skill, L.L.D., is also a pianist of much ability. Language-gifted, in order to make investigations abroad for her writings or in furtherance of her work as secretary she pursued the study of French, German and Italian at Henry Street, often going about its neighborhood, her nurses' bag in one hand, a grammar in the other, deeply concentrated between tenement visitings on one or another language, but as keen for the patient's need whenever this contact came.

Her writings, always forceful and full of interest, are: *Materia Medica for Nurses*, 1890; *Hygiene and Morality in* 1910; with Adelaide Nutting, a *History of Nursing*, two volumes, 1907; two further volumes, *History of Nursing and the International Council*, 1909; with Isabel Stewart, a *Short History of Nursing*, 1919; and various articles and reports.



ISABEL McISAAC

ISABEL McISAAC

A rare ability in insight, understanding and sympathy and with a forceful application of clearness, fairness and dignity in business or friendship, were qualities which made Miss McIsaac a valuable force in shaping the early nursing affairs.

As Superintendent of the Illinois Training School for Nurses, as an officer in our National Nursing Organizations, as Interstate Secretary and Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, as President of the Journal Board and in her writings, her influence and inspiration has been extended beyond that which is usual.

Her interest in literature, her keen sense of humour, her enjoyment of music, her knowledge of folks, rounded out such a personality as enjoyed the short time she was allowed to plan for her home on the farm, and her friends loved to think of her in it, free from numerous cares.

Miss Isabel McIsaac was born January 9, 1858, in Waterloo, Iowa, graduated from the Illinois Training School in 1888 and died in Washington, D. C., September 21, 1914.

"Instinctively my thoughts and my heart go out to the night nurses all over the land. Of all the lonely watchers of the night,—sailors, sentries, lightkeepers, and shepherds,—none keep the solitary, anxious watch of the night nurse or the watching mother.

"There has never been anything quite like it since the world began, and no woman ever goes through it who does not, all the rest of her life, carry a shadowy remote corner in her mind and heart into which no one else may enter, nor can she ever look out into the night at a late hour and alone, that she does not think of those solitary watchers in the great hospitals, in quiet city homes, in cottages and tenements, in remote villages and on lonely farms, and with a throb of sympathy pray for their guidance and safety."—*Miss McIsaac in "A New Cranford."*

Miss McIsaac was also the author of "Primary Nursing Technique," "Hygiene for Nurses," "Hygiene for the Use of Public Schools."



SOPHIA F. PALMER

SOPHIA F. PALMER

Born in Milton, Massachusetts, 1853, and died in Forest Lawn, N. Y., April 27, 1920.

Miss Palmer graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital in its early days. After several years of private duty nursing, she held the position of superintendent of nurses in each of the following hospitals: St. Luke's, New Bedford, Mass.; Garfield Memorial, Washington, D. C.; and the Rochester City Hospital, Rochester, N. Y. She then became the first editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, a position she held for twenty years, until her death. The *Journal* is indebted to her more than to any other one person for its successful launching and maintenance.

Miss Palmer helped organize the Superintendents' Society and the American Nurses' Association. She was one of the first workers for state registration and helped frame many of the early laws. She was the first president of the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners.

Miss Palmer's clear and forceful journal editorials form a history of nursing progress; they helped guide nursing thought and shape nursing events. She had foresight, good judgment, courage, and perseverance, and in addition was a practical, forceful business woman. In any course she was sure was right, she worked on, undaunted by obstacles, even when others grew discouraged. But with all her ability and strength, she had a gracious personality and a warm interest in others. Many turned to her for help and never in vain. She held ever in mind the ordinary woman, the isolated nurse,—those who form the greater part of the army of nurses.

"Our critics do not seem to grasp the idea that the reason for the great organized movement among nurses for higher education and state registration is to overcome the very defects for which they are criticised, defects for which they are not originally responsible, but which they alone can remedy."—*From one of Miss Palmer's editorials.*



JANE ARCHER DELANO

JANE ARCHER DELANO

Born at Montour Falls, New York, of sturdy New England stock, was graduated in 1886 from the Bellevue School for Nurses. Her first public service began in 1888, when she became superintendent of nurses of the Sandhills Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, which had been established to care for yellow fever victims. She was next in charge of the nursing activities of a copper mining camp at Bisbee, Arizona, and from 1891 to 1896 was Superintendent of Nurses of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

One of the first nurses to take the course in Philanthropy founded by the Charity Organization Society of New York City, she was from 1900 to 1902 Superintendent of the Girls' Department, House of Refuge, Randall's Island, New York City. For the following four years, she served as Superintendent of the School of Nursing, Bellevue Hospital. She became, in 1908, president of the Board of Directors of the American Journal of Nursing, and in 1909, president of the American Nurses' Association, continuing in these positions respectively until 1911 and 1912.

Two events—the death of her father during the Civil War, and her experience at the Sandhills Hospital had awakened in Miss Delano's mind a keen interest in the possibilities of patriotic and altruistic service in time of war and of disaster for a large mobile group of professional nurses organized under the American Red Cross. Accordingly she accepted the chairmanship of the National Committee on American Red Cross Nursing Service, under which the affiliation of the nursing profession and the American Red Cross as planned by Mrs. Robb and her associates, was to be developed. She became superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, so that she might develop at the same time the official army nursing service and its reserve, the Red Cross Nursing Service. Later in 1912, she resigned from the Army to devote all her powers to the Red Cross. Through her labors and through those of her associates, the American Red Cross Nursing Service supplied over eighty per cent. of the total strength of the Army Nurse Corps and over sixty per cent of that of the Navy Nurse Corps during the European War, and carried on extensive nursing service under its own auspices for the relief of the civilian population of the Allies and the United States.

A woman of strength and vision, fearless in the performance of her duties, of remarkable intellectual powers, of vivid personality, and rare graciousness of manner, Miss Delano served the American Red Cross as a full time volunteer for ten years, finally naming the Nursing Service, which she had organized and directed, as her principal beneficiary. She died in line of duty, April 15, 1919, at Savenay, France, at the height of her powers, at work.

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