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Graduates of the College who have not already returned the Official Questionnaire are urged to give immediate attention to this matter. (See page 29.)
ANNA HOWARD SHAW. M.D., D.D.
MEMBERS OF THE WOMAN’S MEDICAL COLLEGE AND FRIENDS:

I count it a very great honor to be permitted to take part in the graduating exercises, for there is no age in the history of the world in which the problems that confront us are more complex than the age through which we are passing.

We might well despair if we view life for a single day. It is only when we view life as a whole that the real reformers, the man and woman who stand on the outward margin of civilization, are able with unfaltering faith to follow their vision to its close.

The woman of today, whose hope rests upon this faith, believes there is a power running through all the ages, and that this power is a constant presence working with unfailing purpose toward a single goal, and that, even though blindly, we are co-workers with it, and must believe that we shall ultimately know the real meaning and the purpose of life.

It is with the hope that we may draw from the Infinite Supply the spirit that we all need to keep us steadily on the march that we are met today. We must believe that running through these perplexing problems of ours is a spirit far deeper and more fundamental, without which all forms of freedom, whether industrial, educational or political, would be futile, but accepting and guided by which, we may look forward with hope.

The real problems confronting the world are not so much economic, they are not so much military, they are ethical and religious. Freedom, true freedom, must come from within, and I believe all will agree with me that our great need today is that our movement, the progressive movement of women along all lines of human service, must be vitalized by a mighty spiritual force working from within ourselves. And certainly this is true of the medical profession, perhaps more true than of any other.

Ours is different from any other movement the world has heretofore known. We women who are to take our place and part in the world’s progress do not bring to the world a new ideal of freedom. We bring to
it the age-old gospel which the first great Emancipator of women gave, the same old message, but in new language and stripped of its traditions, its prejudices, and broader in its application.

The progress of nations and the progress of great reforms is not measured by spoils of material acquisition, nor by the size of its standing army, nor by the number of ships, nor even by the accumulated gifts of civilization; but it is measured by the progressive aspirations and growing ideals of justice and the widening of the vision of personal obligations and personal responsibility.

It is said that to take unto ourselves the great ideals of the past, to become human by realizing in ourselves the experiences of the past, gives to life an immeasurable value. Because of this it is given to us to teach the people a higher ideal of nationalism than that of blindly following the example of the past, a patriotism which expresses itself in a nobler sentiment than "My country right or wrong," but rather in a spirit of loyalty to declare "My country if she is right; but if she is wrong then by every power of my being shall I seek to make her right."

Our nation today is running mad over the cry of "unpreparedness," and we are ready to plunge into any excess of reckless expenditure of treasure, or even of life, in response to this cry. Armies and navies may break our enemies, but it is only by the rule of law that we can ultimately subdue them. We may conquer the forces of Prussian militarism, we may defeat their armies, but we can never conquer Prussianism unless we can conquer Prussian ideals in the life of the people and implant in their stead the ideals which underlie our national life, the ideals to which we are aspiring and to which the lives of our people are dedicated. Those are the conquering ideals, and only thus can we ultimately win this great war.

The old contempt of life, which has led so many to sacrifice it, is not an evidence either of patriotism or courage; but to love honor more than life, to realize that without it life would be valueless, is the ideal to which we are called now.

Today we stand on the vantage-ground of the ages. All that has been accumulated from the past is ours. If we have not gone beyond it, and stand cowering in the fear of the future, of what avail are the lessons of the past? The opportunities which open before us are so numerous and the possibilities so alluring that the woman of courage, of faith, of vision, cannot withstand them.

Responsibility rests upon women at the present time as it never rested upon them before, to choose and then, having chosen, to act. Vastly more is demanded than in any period of the past. It is the price women have to pay for the benefits they enjoy, the gift of those pioneer women whose passion for freedom won for us the great heritage of civilization which is ours. This heritage of opportunity is not ours simply to enjoy or to add to the widening and deepening of our own characters. The world demands from you young women more than it has ever demanded before. It requires an adequate return for your equipment of life and for the vast opportunities which the toil, the patience, the suffering and the whole service which the pioneers of your profession gave to secure you your high privileges.
I am old enough to have looked in the face of the first woman practitioner in the city of Philadelphia and have heard from her own lips the story of the experiences through which she passed. But it is impossible for human words to express the agony of soul, the hopelessness and despair of one fired by a desire to serve who finds every step blocked by the forces which should have aided and supported her.

The cry of the woman who seeks freedom from responsibility is a cry of selfishness, of cowardice, and has no place in the higher ideals of humanity. We should never forget that opportunity is responsibility. Responsibilities are not the result of desire. They are not the result of a willingness to accept them.

Your right to practice medicine has passed beyond the state of academic discussion and has entered the realm of practical experience. The war has opened up possibilities for the practitioner of today of which the older generation never dreamed.

The ethics of medicine make you stand and suffer without complaint. You must not ask for recognition. You must not ask for so-called rewards. You must not seek honors. We are the servants of humanity and ethics demand, as well as your oath, that you shall keep silent; but the eternal law of progress cannot be stayed, and your success and reward are sure.

Since my appointment as Chairman of the Women’s Committee of the Council of National Defense I have appeared before the officials of the Government and asked, or restated rather, that now is the time for this country (since it is calling upon its women physicians to serve) to recognize the service of a physician as a physician, not the service of a sex. Whatever honor or recognition is bestowed upon the physician by the Government should be bestowed because of the service rendered by the physician, and not upon the sex of the physician.

I was met with the usual thing with which we meet on such occasions—“The time is not yet ripe.” The time is ripe. The occasion has made it ripe. Necessity demands that it shall be the right time. I think it behooves the people of this nation, the men and women who believe in fair play, the people who are ready to stand before the world, to declare in no uncertain tones that in justice and service and honor there is no sex. The time has come for the people of this country to demand for its women physicians what ethics forbid them to demand for themselves—full recognition and reward for fearless devotion and patriotic service.

Women are acquiring political acumen and they realize that it takes political power back of the conditions which I have named to bring about a change. It is manifest on every hand that women are getting an insight into the causes which lead to conditions that exist, and in order that they may obtain the power needed for this and other reforms controlled by the Government they demand the rights of full citizenship.

Graduates, keep to your ideals. There is still work in the world for the idealist. And remember this, the ideal is the most real thing in the world. It is the dynamic power which is creative of character. So long as our ideals of the duties and obligations and dignity of our profession expand, so long shall we justify our claim upon the world.
in the presentation of a paper, "The Training in Sex Education of Those who are Preparing to Teach." The development of public interest in the subject of this conference is a noteworthy feature of our times.

Classes of nurses from the Kensington Hospital for Women and from the Women's Homeopathic Hospital of Philadelphia have enrolled for the Preliminary Didactic and Laboratory Course for Nurses given at the College in connection with the College Hospital Nurses' Training School.

The work of the Red Cross Chapter continues with enthusiasm. Among our recent activities was the participation in the Red Cross Linen Shower for French hospitals. A hundred and sixty pieces, at a cost of $75.00, were sent from the College Chapter, this amount being contributed by Faculty, students and members of the Hospital Staff.

**ALUMNÆ NOTES**

Dr. Caroline M. Purnell, 1887, has gone to France as a Commissioner of the American Women's Hospitals. Dr. Purnell's mission is to inspect Hospital No. 1, and to advise regarding its expansion; to consult with the Red Cross authorities and the medical department of the French government concerning the establishment of the mobile gas hospital of 1000 beds, which the American Women's Hospitals is now assembling for the French army and to bring back suggestions for future work.

Dr. Regina M. Downie, 1914, of Beaver Falls, Pa., is working in a dispensary at rue Mignotte, started by the Rockefeller Foundation and later partly taken over by the Red Cross.

Dr. Mabel Bancroft, 1903, who sailed for France last November, has charge of a clinic in Levallois-Perret, in connection with the settlement house which was established ten years ago by two devoted French women, Mlle. Bassot and Mlle. Girault. This clinic was opened in the fall of 1917 and was the first clinic to be installed in accordance with the Red Cross plan of working in cooperation with already existing French organizations.

The mobilization has taken all but two of the doctors from this neighborhood, which has a population of 70,000 with 3500 refugees. Dr. Bancroft's dispensary is situated in a small corner store, which is fitted up in fine fashion and contains a reception room, office, dressing room and consultation room. Consultations begin at about half-past two in the afternoon. The recording nurses show the mother and baby into the consultation room, and while the baby is being undressed and weighed a full history of the case is made, the child is thoroughly examined and estimate of the amount of nourishment received by breast-fed babies is taken by weighing before and after feeding. If it is found that the child is not thriving on the breast, the mother is given a special appointment and is studied. Nearly all of the troubles hinge upon the feeding. Special