ARROGANCE, intolerance, and selfishness get us nowhere. Cruelty simply breeds cruelty. Hatred begets hatred. But mutual understanding, friendliness, sympathy, readiness to put yourself in the other man’s place, the effort to bring men together rather than to separate them,—these are the forces that form the only possible foundation of a Commonwealth of Christian good will and peace.

—JAMES E. GREGG
SERVICE OF A NEGRO HOSPITAL
The John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital, Tuskegee Institute

BY JOHN A. KENNEY,* M.D., DIRECTOR
RECORDS OF GRADUATE NURSES

About one hundred and forty graduate nurses have received their training at Tuskegee, and are practicing in nearly every State in the South and in California, Colorado, Washington, Illinois, Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania. The greater number, of course, are in private practice in Southern States, but many are holding responsible positions as heads of smaller institutions; and some have been very successful in the large and growing field of public health nursing.

Those who are in private practice are reflecting much credit upon the Nurses’ Training School and upon their profession. Their services, according to reports received by us, are characterized by efficiency, conscientiousness, and patience. On account of these qualities they are in many instances gaining the good will and plaudits of patients and physicians. One of the latest reports received is as follows:—

“This is to certify to the unparalleled helpfulness and loyalty to me of Miss Amelia V. Johnson, a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute Nurses’ Training School, in my work here both medical and surgical. She has been associated with me during the greater part of the past year and I have found her not only an efficient, painstaking, conscientious nurse, but an excellent and exceptional young woman generally. Especially in the care of patients following major operations has she unostentatiously displayed a concern and interest and an intelligent appreciation of her duties which bespeak for her a bright and helpful future.”

Not only are these young women engaged in private practice making enviable records, but those who hold positions as head nurses are proving their capabilities as heads of institutions, and the same is true of those who are doing public health nursing. It is a pleasure for me to give the following report, the sentiment of which is characteristic of many others:—

“I am writing to advise that Miss Eleanor K. Moore, a graduate of the Nurses’ Training School of Tuskegee Institute, has from every angle come up to the full measure of our expectations. From the time of her entrance as head nurse in the Little Rock Infirmary, founded and operated by me, her work was satisfactory. In Mobile, where two years later she accepted a call, her ability and devotion to her chosen profession as superintendent of the Bienville Infirmary, were again displayed. Leaving there in December 1917, she returned to Little Rock and accepted the position of United States public health nurse and inspector. This position was tendered to her by the United
States Assistant Surgeon General, Dr. Pierce. This position she continues to hold with much credit to herself, the race, and the school from which she was graduated. We are proud of her work. She has made friends here among both races. I understand that when her work with the Government ends she will very likely be retained by the city to look after public health."

SENIOR NURSES AT TUSKEGEE IN 1921

IN THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

What the nurses of this hospital have meant in this section can be fairly judged from the statement that during the great influenza epidemic about two years ago, we had 37 nurses who did 1061 days of service in 104 families in 26 cities, towns, and communities. Few realize the conditions confronted by these young women during those perilous times or the experiences which were theirs. Miss Bessie B. Hawes, a graduate of the Class of 1918, wrote as follows to me:—

"I shall tell you of an experience of which I am very proud. Eight miles from Talladega, Alabama, in the backwoods, a colored family of ten was in bed dying for the want of attention. No one would come near. I was asked by the health officer if I would go. I was glad of the opportunity. As I entered the little country cabin I found the mother dead in bed, the father and the remainder of the family running temperatures of 102 to 104°. Some had influenza and others had pneumonia. No relatives or friends would come near.

"I saw at a glance that I had much work to do. I rolled up my sleeves, killed chickens, and began to
cook. I forgot I was not a cook; I only thought of saving lives. I milked the cow, gave medicine, and did everything I could to help conditions. I worked day and night trying to save them for seven days. I had no place to sleep. I didn’t realize how tired I was till I got home. I sat up at night alone, and one night with a corpse in the house. The doctor lived about twenty miles away and came every other day. He thought I was very brave but I didn’t realize, till it was all over, just how brave I had been. I did, however, feel very happy when they were out of danger. I only wish I could have reached them earlier and been able to do something for the poor mother.”

To my mind this was a very trying experience in which a beautiful and God-like spirit was manifested. On the other hand it was not exceptional during that period.

Some idea of the success of our hospital service may be gained from the fact that two years ago 449 cases of influenza were treated in our wards and private rooms without a death, and 33 cases of pneumonia with one death. This record, however, is not out of keeping with the general record of the hospital. Statistics for five years, from 1912 to 1918, show that 6288 cases were treated in our wards and private rooms with a mortality of 4 per cent, and 379 major surgical operations performed with a mortality of 2 per cent.

A NEIGHBOR’S TRIBUTE

The estimation in which the work of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital is held in this section can be ascertained from the following article written by Mr. C. W. Hare, a citizen of Tuskegee, and editor of the Tuskegee News:

“One not acquainted with the work being done for the Negro race in Alabama and the whole country by the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee Institute can have no conception of the far-reaching good that it does. That hospital not only provides the best accommodations for the sick of that race, but every year Negro doctors, dentists, and pharmacists gather for clinics where hundreds of cases of all kinds are treated free, and where the best lectures on needful subjects are heard. Besides, the hospital trains dozens of nurses who are used in both white and black families. The editor of the News is glad to be able to say in this connection that the Institute was wonderfully fortunate in securing so capable, wise, and faithful a surgeon to have oversight and control of the hospital as Dr. John A. Kenney. For several years he has made a remarkable record in the number of operations and the small number of patients who failed to recover.”