

Nurses has now entered upon the eleventh year of its history, having been established in April, 1881, with a corps of sixteen Nurses. This number was made up from volunteers then on the Nursing staff of the Hospital, and those who signified their willingness to remain for a period of two years were enrolled as members of the school. The terms agreed upon were that Nurses during the first year would each receive \$6 (25s.) per month, uniform, caps and aprons; during the second year, \$9 (37s. 6d.) per month, uniforms, and at the close of the second year, a certificate and silver badge, after passing the required oral examination. Certificated Nurses if kept in the Hospital were to be allowed \$12 (50s.) per month with uniforms, etc. The uniform at this time consisted of a dress of washing material, made princess style, with a long train, worn in the morning, and a dress of grey lustre, with a bow of blue ribbon at the throat, for afternoon wear. Only five of the original number, however, remained until the expiration of the period necessary for the completion of their training. They were examined orally, and received the certificate and badge which entitled them to the appellation of Trained Nurses.

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For the first three years little apparent progress seems to have been made, owing no doubt, to various causes and difficulties experienced in the establishment of such an institution. In January, 1885, the school consisted of a Superintendent, a supervisor of night Nurses, seven certificated head Nurses in charge of wards, and twenty-seven pupil Nurses in training. At this time the Nurses served the meals in the wards, and washed the dishes as well. They were allowed one hour off duty during each day, one afternoon each week, and one half of every alternate Sabbath. Their dining-room was in the Hospital basement, and the sleeping-rooms were scattered throughout the Hospital—some in the west wing, some in the attic, and some in the Eye and Ear department. About this time a large room was furnished and set apart as a sitting-room, and by means of contributions from the Nurses themselves a piano was rented for nearly two years.

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During the year 1885 a number of changes were made: the dining-room was removed from the basement to a pleasant room on the first floor of the Hospital. This was a decided improvement, and brought great joy to the Nurses, but the greater joy came two years afterwards when the school moved into the new building which had been erected expressly for their use. This wing is usually designated as "The Home," and is connected with the main building by means of a covered bridge. It contains, besides dining-room and bedrooms, two prettily furnished parlours, in which may be found a fine piano (the gift of some of the benevolent friends of the school) and a medical and general library. In the beginning of the year 1888 it was thought advisable to reduce the sum paid to Nurses to \$3 (12s. 6d.) per month for the first year, \$6 (25s.) per month the second year, and in addition to this at the expiration of the second year \$25 in money together with certificate and badge. This sum may appear small in comparison with the services rendered, but it must be remembered that this is not looked upon as payment, as the experience gained and instruction given are considered a full equivalent.

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From year to year improvements have been added in order to promote the efficiency and usefulness of the school. A regular course of study and lectures are prepared, for nine months in each year, and arrangements made so that examinations can be conducted regularly every six months. The study comprises Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, together with practical Nursing, while the lectures, which are given gratuitously by many of our most eminent Physicians and Surgeons, embrace a large number

of subjects calculated to make Nurses more intelligent and efficient. The knowledge thus obtained is designed to lead them beyond the point so often spoken of where a little knowledge becomes so dangerous. It enables them to discover the "wide difference both in kind and in degree between the knowledge necessary for a Doctor and that necessary for a Nurse." They learn, if they learn truly, that *simple obedience* must ever be their watchword.

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The training school system has a threefold object in view—its primary and greatest aim, the improvement of the Nursing service in the Hospital, so that the poor of our community, who would otherwise find it beyond their means, may have every advantage which skilled Nursing can provide. Secondly, it aims to be a school of instruction, where women who are fitted by nature and education, can obtain a thorough, theoretical and practical knowledge of the art of Nursing, with a view to making this their calling or profession; and, thirdly, it seeks to give the medical profession intelligent and skilful co-operation in the noble work of alleviating human suffering. In almost all hospitals the training school is a corporative system, attached to some hospital and under a separate management. This training school, however, is controlled by the trustees of the Hospital, like all the other departments of hospital service, the Medical Superintendent having the general supervision and the Superintendent of the Training School immediate charge of the Nursing, course of work, study, lectures, discipline and instruction of all Nurses in the Hospital. It is not customary in this school to admit a class of probationers spring and fall, although the examinations are conducted half-yearly. A Nurse may have passed her final examination, yet she remains on duty in the Hospital until she has completed a full course of two years. Nurses therefore complete their course and pass out one by one through the year. A probationer at once fills the vacancy, the list is kept constantly full, and the service continues. At present, Nurses are required to pass an entrance examination consisting of ordinary English and practical work; a written examination at the end of the first year, set by the Superintendent of the School; and at the end of the second year a written and an oral before an examining board. The number of those who hold the certificate of this school is now 131. Of these, twenty-nine hold positions in hospitals, fourteen are married, five are foreign missionaries, and many are engaged in private Nursing both in Canada and the United States.

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During the year over 600 applicants have been received. Of these, sixty-seven entered on probation, thirty-eight proved satisfactory and were admitted, and three were dropped from the roll for various causes. There are sixty pupil Nurses in training, and a class of twenty certificated. Beginning with sixteen Nurses in 1881, in 1891, the school as it now stands numbers fifty-five pupil Nurses in training, five probationers, and two permanent Nurses—sixty-two Nurses in all. Lectures have been delivered on Surgery, Anatomy, the Eye and Ear, the Throat and Nose, Obstetrics, the Brain, Poisons, Phthisis, Typhoid Fever, Materia Medica, Contagious Diseases, Dermatology, Gynecology, and the Qualifications of a Nurse.

This year we are happy to report an extension in our work, which promises to be of great practical value to the school. A new pavilion containing nearly forty beds, set apart for gynecological work, was opened on October 8th. In this building, it is expected that increased advantages will be afforded in the nursing of gynecological cases; and also that each Nurse will have the opportunity of spending at least four weeks in learning the art of cooking for invalids. Hitherto it has been impossible to give any regular instruction in Dietetics, but in future all Nurses will be able to get a thorough practical knowledge of this branch and will also be required to pass an examination in the same."

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