

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

IS A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ADVISABLE; IF SO, IN WHAT SUBJECTS?



IN connection with the discussion of this subject, we have pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the following important regulations which have just been adopted at St. Bartholomew's. It will be observed that the

term of engagement has been raised at this Institution to *four* years, and that a preliminary examination has been also instituted, which candidates for admission to the School must pass before they can be appointed as Probationers. This is an answer to the question we are asking, which is of the greatest significance in various ways.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Women will be received at this Hospital and trained as Nurses, subject to the following regulations:—

Their age on appointment must not be less than 23, nor more than 35.

They must produce satisfactory evidence of moral character, good health, unimpaired faculties, and general fitness of disposition and temperament for the duties of a Sick Nurse, and they must be of at least average height and physique.

They must engage to serve at the Hospital for a term of four years, that is to say, for three years as Probationers, and for one year (after obtaining their certificate) as Staff Nurses. They will not be allowed to withdraw before the expiration of that term except on special grounds approved by the Treasurer and Almoners.

The times for the commencement of the term of training are the 1st February, 1st May, 1st August, and 1st November, but no one can be appointed at those times unless she has previously been in the Hospital on trial for at least a month.

The following payments will be made by the Hospital:—

£2 at the end of every three months of the first year of the term, £3 at the end of every three months of the second year of the term, £5 at the end of every three months of the third year of the term, and £7 10s. at the end of every three months of the fourth year of the term.

Each of these payments will, however, be made only for a completed period of three months' efficient service and satisfactory conduct. Any one failing to give satisfaction, either to the Matron or to the Medical and Surgical Officers, will not be entitled to the payment; nor will any part of a current Quarter's payment be made to anyone who, from any cause whatever, leaves the Hospital in the course of a Quarter.

They must provide, at their own cost, all requisite uniform for wearing during the time they are on trial for Probationership. But, in the event of their being appointed Probationers, after their period of trial, a certain supply of dresses, caps, and aprons will be allowed them by the Hospital during the remainder of

their term of service. This uniform they will be required to wear at all times when they are in the Hospital. A reasonable quantity of washing will also be done for them free of expense.

They will be lodged and boarded within the Hospital.

At the end of their first year, they will be required to pass an examination in such matters as they have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with since entering the Hospital. If they pass that examination satisfactorily, and are otherwise efficient, they will be employed as "Staff Probationers" for the remainder of the three years, at the expiration of which time their knowledge of Nursing will be again tested by examination. During their second and third years they will receive regular teaching in the art of Medical and Surgical Nursing from Members of the Hospital Staff.

They will be required to conform to the general rules of the Hospital, as well as to such regulations specially affecting the Probationers and Nurses as may be made from time to time. They may be moved from Ward to Ward at the discretion of the Matron.

They will be subject to dismissal at any time for misconduct, inefficiency, or repeated neglect of duty; but they will not be at liberty to leave of their own accord before the expiration of the four years without special permission from the Treasurer and Almoners. Failure to pass the examination at the end of the first year will also be considered, except under special circumstances, a sufficient cause for the termination by the Treasurer and Almoners of a Probationer's engagement with the Hospital.

At the end of the third year a certificate of competency as Nurses will be awarded to those who, besides having discharged their Ward duties efficiently, have passed both examinations creditably, and conducted themselves in all respects to the satisfaction of the Hospital authorities.

At the expiration of a year after obtaining their certificate they will be free to quit the Hospital. By arrangement, however, they may remain in the service of the Hospital as "Staff Nurses" after that time; and, in that case, they will be paid at the rate of £35 per annum for the first year of their so remaining, and at the rate of £40 per annum subsequently.

Before being admitted on trial, applicants must satisfy the Medical and Surgical Instructors that they have received a fair education and are generally intelligent, and that they have an elementary knowledge of:—(1) the names of the bones of the skeleton; (2) the structure and the mechanism of the following joints, *i.e.*, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee, ankle; (3) the general situation of the viscera of the thorax, abdomen and pelvis; the course of the circulation of the blood; (4) the names of the various parts of the alimentary canal; (5) the principal parts of the nervous system; (6) the composition of the air; (7) the structure and general use of thermometers; (8) the signs and terms generally used in prescriptions. They will also be required to undergo a medical examination, and they must produce a certificate of having been vaccinated within the previous year.

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