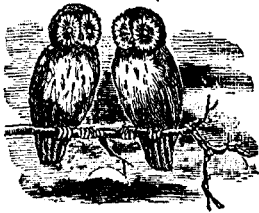


Matrons in Council.



THE following answers were sent by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to the Questions issued by the Matrons' Council, concerning "A Uniform Curriculum of Education for Nurses."

Question 1.—Are you in favour of a uniform curriculum of education for Nurses?

Answer 1.—Yes.

Question 2.—Are you in favour of a preliminary course of education?

Answer 2.—Yes; and entirely organised by a professional body composed of medical men and Nurses.

Question 3.—What subjects should this preliminary course of education include?

Answer 3.—*The Domestic Arts*, including cooking, sewing and cleaning. *Practical Nursing*, including personal care of the patient, bed-making, bathing in all the various details, external applications (general and local), method of administering drugs, use of clinical thermometer, preparation of patients for examination and operations, preparation of operating theatre, care and cleansing of surgical instruments and appliances, preparation and use of lotions, bandaging, splint padding, and the preparation of dressings. *Nursing Ethics*, including Hospital etiquette, manners, discipline. *Elocution* and reading aloud. *Theoretical*, elementary anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics, and hygiene. *Massage*.

Question 4.—Are you in favour of a preliminary examination?

Answer 4.—Yes, in all the above mentioned subjects. The examination in the domestic arts, practical Nursing, massage, Nursing ethics and elocution to be conducted by the Matron. Examination in elementary anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics and hygiene to be conducted by medical men. This course would require at least six months' study at a Central Nursing College, or in a private Nursing School attached to the Hospital.

Question 5.—What length of time do you consider necessary for a Nurse to work in the wards of a Hospital before she can be considered fully trained?

Answer 5.—Three years.

Question 6.—In what way would you advise that this period should be passed?

Answer 6.—As *Probationer* on day duty for twelve months, three months to be spent respectively in male and female medical wards, three months in male and female surgical wards; six months in special wards, including fever wards. As *Staff Probationer*, eighteen months on alternate night and day duty. A *Staff Nurse* should signify a certificated Nurse.

Question 7.—Of what should the theoretical education of a Nurse consist during her period of training?

Answer 7.—Systematic clinical instruction, given by the Sister of the ward during the first eighteen months. Courses of lectures and demonstrations during the same period, on the Nursing of diseases in special sections, such as various organic diseases; each surgical operation in the general wards, and lectures and demonstrations on the special diseases of each organ as treated separately by specialists, including

diseases of the brain, eye, ear, throat, skin, infectious diseases, &c.

Question 8.—How many examinations would you consider necessary during the period of training, and before awarding certificates?

Answer 8.—(1) Preliminary; by the Matron and medical staff for entrance to work in the wards. (2) At the end of eighteen months' Probationership by Matron and medical staff. (3) By a State-appointed Board consisting of medical men (past or present lecturers to Nurses) and Superintendents of Training Schools (past or present) for a certificate of efficiency.

A course of supplementary education should be arranged for the Certificated Nurses who had shown evidence of organising ability during their training, during which they should take the duties of Night Superintendent and Sister of Wards, Home Sister and Housekeeper, spend a certain time in the linenry, laundry and Matron's office. A supplementary certificate for not less than twelve months' work might be awarded, signed by the Matron, to those Nurses who proved themselves efficient in performing the duties of the various departments. This certificate would be of great value to the Committees of Institutions requiring Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing.

Question 10.—What form should this certificate take?

Answer 10.—The certificate of efficiency should be signed by the Examiners and qualify for registration.

Question 11.—On what financial system should a Nurse's training be based?

Answer 11.—Upon the only sound financial basis. A Nursing School should be conducted on collegiate principles, the pupils paying for the cost of their own education, partly in money and partly in labour.

Question 12.—Are you in favour of State Registration?

Answer 12.—Yes, *very strongly* in favour of Registration by Act of Parliament.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

DISCUSSION ON MISS ISLA STEWART'S PAPER.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, in speaking on Miss Stewart's paper, said it was very inspiring to hear the views of the Matrons and lecturers to Nurses, and that she was pleased to find the whole tone of the answers so moderate, and therefore, perhaps, of infinitely more value. She would always deprecate a spirit which would place limitations on the education of Nurses, or indeed of any other working women. It appeared to her that in discussing modern and professional problems it was necessary to approach them with a very open mind. The thoughts and methods of to-day would be relegated to-morrow to the shelf, and changes now were so rapid, scientific discoveries so prolific, that everything was more or less in a transition stage, so that our frame of mind should be tentative and capable of extension and enlargement. We must never say "this is conclusive," but must grasp the fact that we are only at the beginning of things. She herself felt very strongly on the subject of all work that women have been permitted to do, and she regretted that the tendency of the powers that be is to limit the sphere of women's work, and to dictate in autocratic yet futile terms what they shall and shall

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