

such methods must be pursued which shall be for his best interests, either as an individual or as a representative of the hospital.

But, before a plan which shall be a basis for more uniform work can be formulated, it seems necessary to consider the methods already in vogue; accordingly information was elicited from twenty-five training schools. We naturally turn to the elementary principles and inquire as to the instruction given probationers, to find that of the twenty-five schools represented twelve give instruction to probationers by class teaching as well as by the bedside; twelve give no instruction outside that furnished in the ward by the head nurse or senior nurse; and one depends upon the number of probationers entering upon their training. If a sufficient number enter at the same time a class may be formed.

We find in some cases that the instruction is given during the entire probation period,—this being true of those schools in which the term is one month; but in only two schools having a longer term does the class instruction begin at once.

There is a marked uniformity in teaching probationers. Of the twelve schools that give instruction in ward work by class teaching, ten do so by practical demonstration, while two make no mention of the methods employed, but simply state that the probationers receive class instruction.

The standard required for a probationer to become a pupil nurse varies more than the amount and kind of instruction given, though it is evident that the managers of these twenty-five training schools have much the same idea of what the typical nurse should be, for thirteen of them say that she must show a general aptitude for the work; thirteen mention neatness, order, and cleanliness, as requirements to be fulfilled; eleven stipulate that she must be intelligent; five require her to be quick in her work as well as quick of comprehension, and one school expects her to devote seven minutes to the making of each bed. Besides all these there are various other requisites mentioned, such as general appearance, patience, cheerfulness, good manners, good education, good health, obedience, faithfulness, proficiency, willingness, thoroughness, knowledge of how to care for self, etc., etc.

If we consider all these qualities necessary for the successful nurse and add to them those for which she was recommended to the superintendent of the training school at the outset, we have a sum total whose likeness is neither sought nor found in any other calling, nor among any other class of people, and if we add again those qualities acquired by training,—the result produced is a woman rarer than veritable saints and martyrs,

If our experiences as trained nurses will bear this out—if we and our associates are truly uncommon women, then surely the end justifies the means.

But, did not that superintendent strike the keynote who said, "A probationer should be required to do her work well or prove that she can be taught to do it, before she is allowed to join a training school?"

And did not another sum up the qualities requisite for a good nurse by saying she should have "good health, good sense, good manners and education?"

If the probationer in her ward work gives evidence of the possession of these qualities, is she not worthy our consideration, and might not this be a standard?

We find by examination of the reports of the twenty-five schools, that pupil nurses are assigned to night duty at periods in their course varying from the end of the first to the end of the sixth month; for in one school they began their night duty at the end of the first probation month; in another at the end of the second or third month; in three not earlier than the third month; in five at the end of the third month; in two at the end of the third or fourth month; in two at the end of the fourth month; in one at the end of the fourth to the sixth month; in three at the end of the fifth month; in two at the end of the fifth or sixth month; in four at the end of six months; and one school failed to report.

Possibly these are not arbitrary and immovable dates, but are what the managements of the different schools prefer, and may be deviated from to meet the exigencies of the hospitals.

Length of first term of service on night duty varies also; six schools give a term of one month each; one, gives one to three months; one, gives from four to six weeks; nine, give two months; one, gives three months; one, two or three months; one, four months; and five schools did not respond to the question regarding length of service.

One school gives a leave of absence of two days at the end of each term of night duty. While it seems that this method must require considerable mathematical calculation in keeping full the vacancies thus caused, no doubt the physical well-being of the nurses compensates.

In twenty-two of the hospitals mentioned, the pupil nurses have the whole care of the patients under the direction and supervision of the night superintendent. In two they are assisted by other nurses or orderlies. One school keeps so many specials on duty that one nurse rarely has the entire responsibility.

*(To be continued.)*

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