

hospital must possess, in order to be recognised as a Nursing School. After considerable and very careful thought, it was generally agreed that no hospital possessing less than forty beds could be so acknowledged. This was adopted by the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1891, and is now regarded as a fair provision.

In the medical profession, it is provided that no London hospital containing less than 100 beds, and no provincial one containing less than 150 beds, can be recognised as a clinical school. So the principle in question is strictly analogous to that already in force. But there is this wide and practical difference to be remembered, that whereas a hospital can exist very well without a medical school attached, it is impossible for it, at the present day, to be efficiently worked without nurses. And as nurses have to be paid, it becomes a very serious matter for small hospitals if they are unable to admit probationers who either pay a premium or are only paid very small salaries, and are compelled, therefore, to employ only trained and well paid nurses. As probationers, however, will not go, at the present day, to hospitals which cannot give any recognised certificate of training, the position of institutions containing less than 40 beds has become most difficult.

We have been frequently asked what we would recommend to meet this great and obvious difficulty, and would here reply that the only course which, so far as we can see, will assist such hospitals, is for them to be affiliated, so far as their nursing department goes, to one of their large county hospitals. We think that they would be able to arrange that each probationer at the latter school should pass a certain period of her training in one or more of these small institutions, the practical work in which is, as a rule, of the best and most practical character. Such probationers would attain their theoretical education, their lectures in anatomy, physiology, and so forth, at the County Hospital, and would be drafted on to the smaller institutions for practical training. In the latter, they would obtain the great advantage of seeing many cases of minor surgery, in setting fractures, and aiding at operations, all of which would be allotted in a medical school to the students and dressers. In fact, it is not too much to say that the practical training in many of these smaller hospitals is invaluable; and much of it is, at present, wasted, because the probationer is not assisted

in her understanding of what she sees and hears by having previously acquired that theoretical knowledge which should be the ground-work of her education. If she could obtain the latter at a County Hospital, she would be able not only to learn more, but also would be much more useful in a smaller hospital.

So, just as we hope that we shall in due time find the special hospitals affiliated to the general hospitals in London and other great cities, so that probationers, during their term of training, may be enabled to gain a more extended experience than is possible now in the wards of one institution alone, it seems to us that the method of affiliation which we have suggested, would be of great advantage to provincial nurses, the smaller hospitals and their patients, and would finally and effectually remove the grave difficulties which the Matrons and managers of the latter institutions at present experience in finding suitable probationers.

Annotations.

UNQUALIFIED ATTENDANCE.

THERE are various lessons to be learnt from the painful case recorded in the press of a little boy who was taken to Guy's Hospital, having injured his eye by falling over a sharp pointed piece of wood. The child was sent home again, but was told to come again the following day at a quarter past one. He was taken at that hour, but was not seen until half-past two, a few minutes after which time he had a fit, when he was admitted into the hospital and died next morning.

The points of the case are briefly that the patient on being taken to the hospital, was seen by an unqualified student, Mr. F. O. Stoehr. This gentleman, who "was not certain about the extent of the injury to the eye," called the attention of the assistant house-surgeon to the case. If Mr. Stoehr, therefore, had not been dissatisfied with his own powers of diagnosis, presumably the boy would not have been seen by a qualified practitioner. It is surely wrong that it should be left to the discretion of an unqualified student whether or no a case should be seen by a qualified medical man. In our opinion, those responsible for the management of the Hospital should insist upon it in every case.

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