

social state, pay for every visit at a fixed rate. The poor are aided and comforted by the sisters free from any expenses at all. The nurses have a fixed salary.

There are still a great number of institutions sending out nurses for out-door nursing, such as the Section for Sick-Nursing of the Association of the White Cross, the Association for Sick-Nursing at Harlem, etc., etc.

To give you an idea of the fees, that are paid, I will tell you the rate, fixed by "The White Cross":—

Night-Nursing f.3; f.2.50, and f.1.50.

Day-Nursing f.2.50; f.2, and f.1.

Night and Day-Nursing f.4; f.3, and f.2.

The poor have not to pay anything.

So, you see, there are three classes. Our Dutch *florin* f. equals 40 American cents; f.2.50 equals 1 dollar. Now you may further cipher for your own. The private nurses, that are not joined to any association at all, fix their rate themselves.

I feel very happy to be able to state the fact that nearly every town in our country has its own communal hospital, at least, every town of any significance, and that sick-nursing in the country grows more and more a matter of general interest. Next to these city-hospitals, where the poor are nursed, we find a great many other private hospitals as well for the treatment of general cases, as for that of some special diseases. So there are children's hospitals, ophthalmic and gynecological hospitals, homes for neurological patients, several private institutions for sick-nursing and clinics, etc., etc.

Devotion and love are indispensable qualities with a nurse, but they are not *all*. A really good nurse cannot do without knowledge; she must be trained in the art of sick-nursing. And in this regard we have made in Holland great progress during the last twenty years. The standard of nursing has been raised, and the nurse of now-a-days is quite another being to that of a quarter of a century ago. The nurse of that time—if we may entitle her as such, for it is too noble a name for so unworthy a being—was a splendid specimen of the Sairey Gamp type, so wonderfully immortalized by Dickens. To Miss Reynvaan, late Matron of the Wilhelmina hospital at Amsterdam and honorary member of the British Matrons' Council, belongs the honour of having brought about a thorough re-organization in the nursing-world. It was she, who felt the urgent need of efficient nursing by well-bred women, and she herself set the example. Belonging to a patrician Amsterdam family, she devoted herself to nursing-work. Her task of Matron in the Buiten-gasthuis (now transformed into the Wilhelmina-hospital), one of the two city-hospitals at Amsterdam, was a diffi-

cult one, but yet she did not despair, and with the aid of Dr. van Deventer, at that time Medical Superintendent of the Buiten-gasthuis, she attained her noble aim. The male and female Sairey Gamps were superseded by a more competent nursing-staff. Inspired by her words and deeds a great number of well-bred and intellectually developed women took up nursing-work and gradually there came a blessed change in the condition of things. She has been a noble pioneer on the path, leading to the raising of the standard of nursing, and a word of praise and honour must be spoken to her from this place.

The need of a special training in sick-nursing was more and more felt, and also the truth, that theoretical knowledge without practical experience was not enough. For this reason some hospitals offered an opportunity for a thorough training, the passing of an examination, and the getting of a certificate. In the year 1879 the first certificate for sick-nursing was given by the Society of the White Cross. The number of hospitals and societies, that are granting certificates for sick-nursing, has largely increased since that time. We urgently want state-registration and fervently hope that this new century will fulfil this righteous desire in a not too far-off future. In the meantime the Dutch Association for Sick-Nursing (*de Nederlandsche Bond voor Ziekenverpleging*) whose rules and by-laws have recently been revised, proposes to evolve some order out of the present chaos, and to introduce more uniformity and co-operation with regard to training and examinations.

The different hospitals and societies for sick-nursing make different demands of the candidates who are desirous to pass the examination; a *three* years' training in one of our larger hospitals is a general demand, although there are still some institutions that think a two years' training sufficient.

The curriculum, though not quite the same everywhere, contains generally the following branches of science:—

Some knowledge of anatomy and physiology;  
The nursing of internal, infectious, and neurological diseases;

The nursing of surgical cases; some knowledge of the treatment of wounds and the needed aid in sudden accidents;

The nursing of lying-in women and new-born children;

Some knowledge of hygiene, ventilation, feeding, disinfection, bathing, sick-room comfort etc., etc.

Special certificates are given by some associations for obstetric nursing, and the nursing of the insane, the latter by the Dutch Association for

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