

St. Mary's, in London, a fourth year of service, not necessarily spent in the wards, is now required. The quality of the training given also varies considerably. In a very limited number of hospitals systematic clinical instruction is given by the ward Sisters, in the rest the amount of instruction depends largely upon the individual inclination of the Sister to impart instruction. In the large majority of hospitals, nurses who have passed through an irregular training for three years in the wards are considered competent to act as Sisters of wards, and nurse trainers, without any further qualification than that of the general training of a nurse. Sufficient emphasis has not yet been laid on the necessity of their possessing ability to impart instruction as well as proficiency in the actual performance of nursing duties and, so far, no special training in the best methods of teaching is provided for future ward Sisters.

In Ireland the three years' standard of training has not been so uniformly adopted as in the rest of the United Kingdom. Upon enquiry I find that the reason is mainly a financial one. The country is not a rich one and the cost of the upkeep of Nursing Schools at the present day is so considerable that the schools in many instances are tempted to deprive the nurse of the third year's practical experience so that some return for money expended may be quickly obtained through the fees paid for her services as a private nurse.

PRELIMINARY AND TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOLS.

In England the London Hospital has instituted a course of technical training which pupils pass through before entering the wards of the hospital. The training is given in a special Home, and those who show no aptitude for nursing work are not accepted as general probationers.

In Scotland, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, a course of preliminary education, which all probationers are required to pass through, is given at their own expense. These schemes are a distinct advance, and a step in the right direction, towards a thoroughly efficient course of preliminary education for probationers, before they are permitted to enter the wards of a hospital for their practical work.

In Dublin a School has been established called the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School, with which many of the Training Schools are connected, the object being "to instruct probationer nurses in Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Invalid Cookery, and such other objects outside Hospital training, as may be deemed necessary for the efficient training of nurses." At the conclusion of each term an examination is held in the subject lectured upon, and nurses who pass these ex-

aminations are awarded diplomas, but in no case are these diplomas delivered to the nurses until they have received their nursing certificates after due training.

CONDITIONS OF TRAINING.

Candidates may enter the service of hospitals as regular, or paying probationers. In the first instance they are bound for a definite period of service and receive salaries ranging from about £10 to £20 per annum. Paying probationers are admitted by payment of a guinea a week for short terms of service, from three months to a year, in return for which payment they are often exempted from much of the routine ward work.

In a limited number of schools regular probationers pay a varying sum for their three years' training. The cost of maintaining an efficient nursing school in connection with a large hospital is becoming year by year so expensive a matter that it is not improbable that in the near future nurses, like other professional women, will be called upon to pay part of the cost of their professional education and the up-keep of their Colleges.

THEORETICAL COURSE OF TRAINING.

The subjects taught in most nurse-training schools are elementary anatomy and physiology, and the theory of medical, surgical, and, in some instances, of gynæcological nursing. Obstetric nursing is rarely included. In some instances hygiene, dispensing and invalid cookery are added to the list of subjects taught.

HOURS ON DUTY.

A nurse's hours on duty are from nine to twelve hours on day duty, and usually twelve hours on night duty. In many of the leading hospitals an effort has been made to reduce them still further by increased half-days and whole days off duty, and undoubtedly a great improvement has taken place in this connection during the past decade. Class work and study which formerly had to be done in the meagre off duty hours are now arranged for as part of the work to be accomplished in on duty hours.

AN IMPARTIAL EXAMINATION.

In the large majority of schools the examinations of nurses are conducted by the Medical Lecturers to nurses, and, in very rare instances, by the Matron of the School.

A few have enlisted the services of medical men attached to other institutions, who conduct the final examinations of probationers before they are awarded their certificates. In no instance so

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