

far as I am aware, does any institution invite a thoroughly efficient Superintendent of Nursing to conduct the examination in practical nursing as apart from that in theory, which, in this country is almost without exception conducted by medical men. This cannot be considered a satisfactory condition of things. Examinations should, in my opinion, be conducted by a State appointed body, and to prove that it is not improbable that in the near future a more efficient examination of nurse probationers will be enforced, the action taken by a Conference composed of representatives of Poor Law Unions in Yorkshire may be noted. The feeling was general that there should be a uniform standard of training and examination for nurses in Workhouse Infirmaries, and ultimately it was agreed to form a Board, to be known as the Yorkshire Poor Law Nursing Board, composed of Guardians, Medical Men, and trained Superintendents of Nursing, and that the examinations of candidates should be conducted as to theory by the Medical Officers, and in practical Nursing by the Superintendents of Nursing. This Nursing Board will examine only duly accredited candidates and award certificates.

This is a step forward towards a satisfactory method of examination. An Examination by a State appointed Body, is the only method by which an impartial judgment can be pronounced and upon which a registrable Diploma of Nursing can be awarded.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE GRADUATE NURSE?

In most institutions in the United Kingdom the engagement of the probationary nurse ends with the completion of her term of training. It may be renewed by the committee under a different contract, or the certificated nurse may elect to work in one of the various branches of nursing, either in a special hospital, in connection with the Government Departments or in district or private service.

NURSING SOCIETIES.

As the value of skilled nursing became apparent, the services of the trained nurse were requisitioned in a variety of directions, but in the large majority of societies with which nurses are connected their position is that of industrial workers who are paid definite salaries for the work performed. The relations of the Society to the nurse are those of employer and employed, and she has in it no degree of self-government or legal status.

EMPLOYERS OF NURSES.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Amongst the agencies which employ nurses in

various capacities must first be mentioned the Government Departments.

1. A Navy Nursing Service. Employed by the Admiralty to superintend the nursing of sick and wounded sailors.

2. An Army Nursing Service, with which is connected a Reserve. Employed by the War Office to superintend the nursing of—and in some degree to nurse—sick and wounded soldiers.

3. An Indian Army Nursing Service. Employed by the India Office to superintend the nursing of British sick and wounded soldiers in India.

4. A Poor Law Nursing Department. In this nurses are employed by the Local Government Board, which provides for the nursing of destitute persons in Poor Law Infirmaries.

5. The Metropolitan Asylums Board. Nurses are employed by this Board to nurse persons suffering from infectious diseases in London and the suburbs, in hospitals provided for the purpose.

6. There is also a Colonial Nursing Association, which aims at supplying nurses to British Crown Colonies. This Society was founded by private enterprise, but it is utilised by the Colonial Office.

In none of these Government Offices is there a Nursing Department composed of experts empowered to deal with nursing matters.

DISTRICT NURSING.

THE QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

Foremost among District Nursing Societies is the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which was founded by Her late Majesty out of part of the women's Jubilee offering in 1887. Its object is to supply nurses to the poor in their own homes. When first formed the standard of training required was one year in a hospital, and six months in the district home.

Last year the hospital training was raised to two years. As Queen's nurses hold a very honourable position in the body politic, it is very desirable that the standard should be raised to the full term of three years' hospital training now enforced in the leading training schools, and demanded by Government Departments for their employees.

There are four branches of the Queen's Jubilee Institute, namely, those for England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, which are largely self-governing. It is to the credit of Scotland that for many years a two years' and now, I believe, a three years' course of instruction for its nurses has been enforced.

The work of district nurses amongst the poor, both in urban and rural districts, is one of the utmost value, as a really efficient and well trained

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