

nurses, and we decided to try what could be done for probationers in our own school.

Inquiries were then made at various hospitals, but very little light was thrown upon the subject for us, for the reason that no other school was situated as we were, with so much emergency work depending upon us. We were therefore obliged to work out our own plans. *What* we wanted was clear enough, *how* to accomplish it was another matter, for lack of room, lack of teachers and facilities for teaching were great drawbacks. But these obstacles are now in a fair way to be overcome, and we expect to put in force our new schedule on October 1st.

Our classes will be formed quarterly, all pupils thus starting on the same footing. During the three months, each probationer will spend her morning in the wards assisting the ward nurses and learning the names and care of ward utensils and furnishings, under the care of a post-graduate head nurse; she will spend her whole afternoon in study under the teachers of the school. At the end of the quarter she will be given her junior examination in anatomy and physiology, materia medica, sanitation and hygiene, dietetics, and practical nursing. The morning hours spent in the wards will give an opportunity to judge of her practical fitness for the work, so that we expect thus to be able, at the end of the quarter or probationary period, to place our uniformed nurses in the wards much better fitted from every point of view to undertake the responsibilities of their regular course. This period of probation is to be included in the regular course.

As so much of our teaching has been done in the evening, it has been thought better to lengthen the course to three years and put all our work into the day hours, leaving the evenings free for rest and recreation.

How much of a success this will be remains to be seen. We hope another year will see us well established in a preparatory course.

Personally, I do not approve of each training-school doing its own preparatory work. It is a serious tax upon the officers' time and energy and upon the capacity, resources and finances of the institution which ought not to be borne by them.

Our colleges, recognising that special preparation must be given to students entering certain professions, such as law, medicine, &c., have made provision for such exigencies. Why cannot nursing be recognised as a profession needing special attention and young women just making a decision for the future be given an opportunity to go right on and take up this special theoretical course and then enter a training-school later for two years of practical work and the study necessary to make that practice a success?

I think much better results would be achieved both in the care of the patients and the uniformity of the training of the pupils. The officers would

have more time to devote to the details of the work and the absence of expense for teaching and maintaining the probationers and pupils would materially benefit the institutions with which the schools are connected and most important of all with other contemplated reforms carried through, our profession would be put on a recognised basis which would put it beyond criticism.

Should such a course be considered for applicants to our schools, the country is not barren of resources for teachers, for I understand the Teacher's College of New York City is turning out every year women, trained nurses, specially adapted for such positions as instructors.

The Midwives' Register.

The Midwives' Act comes into force on April 1st, and those whom it concerns are naturally anxious to know what steps they should take in order to enrol themselves as midwives in conformity with its requirements. At present, however, no announcement has been made, either that a secretary has been appointed to whom communications from midwives can be addressed, or that offices have been taken. Midwives can, therefore, only wait an official announcement on the subject, and be prepared to register as soon as facilities are afforded them for doing so.

The midwife question was discussed on Tuesday at a Conference convened by Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, at which Sir Michael Foster, M.P., presided. Mrs. Johnstone said that the Midwives' Act of 1902 had taken away existing midwives and put no one else in their place. The result of inquiries she had made was to show a terrible dearth of all efficient help. Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., moved a resolution, which was carried, to the effect that it was desirable to form an association to further the supply of midwives to the rural and provincial poor. We believe that the most effective means of assisting them would be to provide midwives who are registered under the Act to work under the medical practitioners of the district. Parishes might provide a parish midwife as they provide a parish doctor.

In our opinion the work could best be carried out in connection with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, many of whose nurses are qualified midwives.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, was present on Tuesday last at the annual meeting of the Kensington District Nursing Association, of which Her Royal Highness is President. The institution, which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, has been in existence for over seventeen years. There are eight nurses on the staff, and the number of cases visited last year was 1,080.

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