

charge of hospital property, the charge of ordinary inmates employed in the hospital, the maintenance of discipline, cleanliness and order, and the carrying out of medical directions as to the treatment of patients.

In relation to these regulations the Committee report:—"Their importance, and probably also the success that has attended them, lie in the clear manner in which they define the respective duties of the Matron and the trained Head Nurse, thereby tending to obviate friction between these two officials."

With regard to the training of probationers, certain of the large poorhouses have adopted this method with the object of obtaining an adequate supply of nurses. The Report states that no pecuniary encouragement from Imperial sources has, up to the present, been granted for the training of probationers, but notwithstanding, and probably because of, the necessity for maintaining a full complement of nurses, probationers are now received in the poorhouses of Glasgow (City), Govan, Dundee, and Glasgow (Barnhill).

WHETHER THE PRESENT STANDARD OF TRAINING SHOULD BE ALTERED.

In this connection the Committee report that the standard of training that entitles a nurse to have her name placed on the Register of Nurses kept by the Local Government Board is "not less than two years in a public hospital being a training-school for nurses, and maintaining a resident physician or house surgeon." (This Register is practically a record of nurses in respect of whom grant is, or has been, allowed. "When a nurse leaves the poorhouse service the fact is noted, but her name is not removed from the Register unless in the event of misconduct. If a registered nurse returns to poorhouse work, grant is again made in respect of her salary, &c., if she produces satisfactory certificates of conduct from her employers during the interval. The Register is in no sense used as a bureau for nurses qualified for employment.")

The Committee continue: "From our official experience, and the evidence that we have heard, we know nothing that justifies a suggestion that the standard of training should be lowered. . . . Even under existing conditions we are satisfied that a two years' training should be maintained as a minimum, and that if any alteration is called for, it should be in the direction of raising the standard of training rather than of lowering it. In this connection it may be remarked that in the poorhouses that train probationers the authorities themselves have instituted a three years' course of instruction—the full certificate being given only at the expiry of the third year of training.

"Current opinion appears to be in favour of a longer training than two years, and in the best general hospitals a three or even a four years' course of instruction is quite common. We are agreed that poorhouse nursing should be as efficient as possible, and that every endeavour should be made to secure the services of nurses with adequate training. If, therefore, we were satisfied that, without unduly burdening the rates, a sufficient supply of nurses could be obtained for poorhouse work, we would recommend that the Board's standard of training should be one of three years. But the time for such a step has, we think, scarcely arrived. No effort should, we think, be spared to encourage the employment of nurses with a three years' certificate.

We recommend, therefore, that house committees be urged to employ, where possible, the better trained nurses, the remainder to be nurses with a two years' certificate. An endeavour should be made, where possible, to have in each poorhouse at least one nurse with a three years' certificate."

INDUCEMENTS TO PROBATIONERS.

Under this heading the Committee report:—"No definite standard of training exists at present, either in Poor Law or in general hospitals. Each hospital has its own standard, and the value of a certificate of training is measured according to the particular hospital from which it is obtained. We propose, therefore, with a view to rectifying this, so far as poorhouse training is concerned, that the Local Government Board should outline a syllabus of training, and hold half-yearly examinations at such centres as, say, Edinburgh and Glasgow. . . . After the completion of her third year of training, a probationer would be eligible for her final examination, and, on passing it, would receive a parchment certificate from the Local Government Board. This certificate would be a hall-mark of efficiency, and would, we feel sure, be much prized by the nurses."

THE STAFFING OF THE VARIOUS POORHOUSES.

In poorhouses that train probationers the Committee are of opinion that the proportion of nurses to sick should be, roughly, about one to ten, apportioned somewhat as follows:—One Charge Nurse and one third-year probationer to every two first- and second-year probationers. The Lady Superintendent should not be allowed to act as Matron of the poorhouse. In town and combination poorhouses there should be at least one nurse with three years' training as Lady Superintendent or Head Nurse, the remainder of nurses with not less than two years' training. In the smallest poorhouses (with, say, less than twenty inmates) an effort should be made to secure the services of a Matron who is also a trained nurse, preferably one holding a three years' certificate.

NURSING OF THE OUTDOOR SICK POOR.

In regard to the outdoor sick poor, the Committee report: "Parish councils have, in many instances, been indebted to help given by trained nurses in looking after their outdoor sick poor. No subsidy from Government funds is given for such a purpose. The requital for such services has usually taken the form of a subscription to a voluntary nursing association or associations." After commenting on the valuable work done by the nurses of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the Committee consider that, in relation to the outdoor poor, parish councils should be induced to co-operate rather than to compete with outside organisation. If they were to organise a system of outdoor nursing of their own, the outdoor poor would in some cases be better off than many ratepayers, and, further, such a system might have a prejudicial effect on voluntary effort.

A Teaching School of Hygiene.

Dr. Farquharson, M.P., who presided at the annual dinner of the Sanitary Institute last week, suggested that the London County Council might recognise the value of the Institute's practical teaching by affording facilities for the establishment of a teaching school of hygiene.

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