

In the first decade after the war excellent training began to be developed in the mother-houses of the Red Cross. But the need for trained nursing grew so enormously quickly that the training was unfortunately impaired in order to meet the pressing need. As personality and natural talent are such important factors in nursing, women who appeared specially suitable were at first put to quite responsible work with little or no technical training, and were soon forced irresistibly further.

To outsiders, this lack of thorough training appeared unimportant, because in no other profession could so much valuable knowledge and experience in practical work be acquired by those possessing talent and application, by the assistance of medical men.

And yet every one of those nurses, deceived about their necessary training, must often have been inwardly conscious of their deficiency in technical training.

At the present time, in Germany both the length of training and the methods of nursing education vary very much in different nursing institutions.

A movement is now on foot for the State regulation of training, and it is therefore of particular importance to be clear as to how best to arrange the most desirable system of education. First of all the pupils must not have their entire strength used to the full in the practical work of the hospital, so that they are too exhausted to digest the quite new material presented to them.

Besides, the new kind of life is difficult for a young girl who comes perhaps directly from the shelter of her home into conditions of life so entirely unfamiliar to her. Less payment should be required of the pupils than before, when they gave substantial help, in order that the sum required from the first by some hospitals may be thoroughly justified. This would make it possible for many an eligible girl to enter the profession, as, unfortunately, only too few German girls are in the position to claim the necessary sum of money from their family from year to year.

About the first six weeks after entrance into the hospital should be considered a probation time, in order to enable the pupils to feel free to decide whether they think themselves equal to the entirely new conditions, and also to give the officials of the training-school opportunity to separate the material that may be quite unsuitable. The time for training in general subjects, which, of course, should be concluded with an examination, should be certainly not less than one year—if possible, one and a-half years.

The first part, of at least three months, including the probation time, should be occupied only with instruction in household matters—i.e., the pupils should learn in this time how the patient's room and bed should be arranged and kept scrupulously clean.

The appliances of modern nursing should be introduced and used.

If there is no lay figure, a child or one of the other pupils would serve to practise upon.

At all events, everything in the way of apparatus and aids to the injured must be made use of and explained systematically, because, later on, time and opportunity may be wanting. Above all, this time should be spent under the guidance of thoroughly warm-hearted Sisters, experienced in life, who would

exercise a wise educational influence over the pupils, and lay the foundation for all time of the right methods of dealing with patients.

After the first quarter, which has been spent in this way, making the new conditions of life easy to the pupils, a theoretical course must follow, before all else a sufficient course of anatomy, hygiene, chemistry, dispensing, bandaging, and, also added to these, of practical assistance in the operating theatre. The theoretical courses must lead on to examinations in writing, for which suitable hours must be arranged.

In the second and third nursing years, besides the further instruction and repetition necessary, special training should be given in nursing psychological patients, monthly nursing, children's nursing, infectious nursing, and massage, with corresponding examinations.

Lectures should be given in the hospital on such subjects as private nursing, clinical nursing of the poor, and on social work. For those inexperienced in

household matters this subject must be provided for, and special attention should be paid to sick-room cookery.

Nurses who desire to conduct smaller hospitals or private clinicals must receive necessary preparation in household management (often required), in book-keeping, knowledge of official sick clubs and insurance for sickness, and in the management of statistics. After such a course of education is completed, at the end of three years a diploma should follow, and our hospitals may be more sure of keeping their nurses until they get their diploma by means of this arrangement than through the present system of restrictions and obligations.

The training of a nurse can hardly ever be regarded as complete. Almost every day brings news of something fresh in the departments of surgery, medicine,



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