

training in one of the recognised hospitals from any part in the country, and who has good references from her medical superintendent, can obtain the certificate.

Male nurses follow the same course of lectures, except mine. They are trained, of course, only in the male wards.

Since November 1st, 1903, we have had one male nurse, not living in the house, who is engaged to be married.

The training for the certificate in general nursing includes medical and surgical nursing, nursing of infectious diseases, and mental nursing.

Nurses who give evidence of special suitability for this branch of work spend one year, out of the three, in this department.

After the three years are completed, lectures in mental nursing are given, and a certificate of the White Cross for this branch of work can be obtained half a year afterwards.

The certificated nurses can spend a year in the lying-in hospital (Vrouwen Kliniek) if they like.

They get a set of lectures on the subject there, and after the year is completed they can obtain the certificate for monthly nursing.

The "Vrouwen Kliniek" gives its own certificate.

Thus in four years the nurses can obtain three certificates, viz.: one for general nursing, one for mental nursing, one for monthly nursing.

In Holland the post of trained superintendent has not yet been created.

Dutch nurses consider it degrading to take the post of Assistant Matron or to superintend the nurses and the housekeeping, both of which appointments are such an excellent preparation for the post of Matron.

I know England is better off in that way; I hope you all are better off, and I hope we will be better off in time.

When young probationers enter the wards we do not give them any responsibility.

The head nurses and first nurses teach them how to make beds and settle the patients, how to take temperatures, how to clean different nursing articles, &c.

They are taught how to take pulse and respiration, and how to observe the sick.

By degrees they learn to bear responsibility.

When, after three or four months, they are put on night duty, they are on one month at a time.

One senior nurse is always on night duty, with a junior probationer in the wards, where two night nurses are wanted.

We try to train them not only in good, practical, intelligent nursing, but also in obedience, punctuality, economy, quietness, and neatness.

The medical superintendent and I try to lay great stress upon nursing ethics and development of character.

We do not only believe in the clever nurse, but also in the good woman.

The Doulton Potteries, Lambeth, have brought out an illustrated booklet called "Pictures in Pottery," showing some hospital wall decorations recently executed by this well-known firm. This is the most charming form of decoration for the walls of hospital wards, and most satisfactory from a hygienic point of view. We imagine the only hindrance to its general adoption is its cost

The Nursing Reform Movement in Germany.

In the *Medicinische Reform*, a socio-medical journal published in Berlin by Dr. Rudolf Lennhoff, appeared, on the 3rd and 10th of September, two very suggestive articles showing the effort towards nursing improvement.

The first one embodies the conclusions which Dr. Mugdan and Dr. George Meyer, of Berlin, have formulated in a report which they were to make to a professional association, and it is prefaced by the editor with a paragraph saying that it has long been evident, and especially since the breaking up of the older nursing systems, that some definite standard must be reached through legislation, and also that the German Nurses' Organisation has brought to light the painfully inadequate payment and provision for old age and sickness of nurses.

The conclusions of the two physicians in their report may be condensed as follows:—

Everyone who designates him or her self as an experienced attendant upon the sick or as Sister should possess a testimonial which should be a proof of fitness for the work. Every public or private hospital should employ at least two, but, if possible, one for every ten beds, of such experienced or licensed nurses, and that only such should be employed in district nursing. The greatest encouragement should be given to well-educated persons to devote themselves to nursing, and that men should not be excluded from the calling, as they are necessary in many cases. The training of the "Pflegerpersonen" (the word means something rather inferior in grade—not what we mean by "nurse" or "Sister") should be conducted in hospitals of at least twenty beds, and where a physician is resident. The education of the nurses (or attendants) should be practical and theoretical; the latter teaching should last at least six months, should comprise a study of the human body, the functions of organs, the symptoms of illness, hygienic regimen, and practical attendance on the sick. Of special importance should be practice in massage, hydro-therapy, and, later, in first-aid in danger and accidents. The practical work should comprise two years, and be divided into medical, surgical, gynæcological, and obstetrical work, eye and ear service, sick children, skin and specific service, and nursing of the insane.

The physician and the Matron (Oberin) should both give teaching in ethics, and the latter in all special points which can only be taught by a nurse. An examination should be conducted under the direction of a Government official. The Examining Committee should have upon it an experienced Matron or nurse, physicians, and other persons at the discretion of the governing (local) authorities

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)