

	Maximum.	Minimum.
Administration and hospital expenditure	20	15
Anatomy	20	10
Physiology	20	10
Surgical dressings and bandaging	25	15
Hygiene	20	15
Dispensing	20	15
Nursing of women in child-birth and infants	20	15
Practical examinations	30	20
Total	175	115

Note that the highest points are given for surgical dressings and bandaging, and for the practical examinations.

The lectures last about ten months, and as each subject is finished it is replaced by another.

We had three written examinations on each subject while it was being lectured on.

I liked the idea of these written examinations while we were undergoing the lectures, because it made us realise what we were weak in, and how much we were expected to know, especially as the books are very minute in detail and much too difficult. The lecturers therefore simplified; but it was very difficult to cull what one was really required to know, and frequently they used different terms from the book.

This is the only fault I can find with the book;—they were too difficult; apart from that, does it not seem a step in advance of us that there should be a uniformity of standard, and that the same books were used by all the municipal schools and nurses?

I shall never forget the evenings of written examinations; we met in the refectory, some 300 to 400 of us. We were carefully divided and separated—the nuns were mixed up with the nurses, while the free pupils divided the latter, the object being that no prompting should be done.

We were each given a blue cover containing blotting-paper and two sheets, one to scribble on, the other for the Professor.

It was such a breathless moment of excitement when the questions were called out distinctly by a *surveillante*, and then such a hubbub and such exclamations! It took the poor *surveillantes* about ten minutes to quiet everybody down. In the meantime, with French kindheartedness and amiability, everybody had been given a "tip," and once, much to my amusement, my neighbour passed me on her *brouillon*, hoping it would help me as I was a "stranger." In fact, I cannot say how touched I was at the kindness I invariably received from those "dreadful *infirmières*." One evening when I had lost my pencil, one of them broke hers in two, after my refusing several offers, with the unselfish words, "Take mine, I shall not need it." Not only that, but I never lacked a seat

in front, for several were, always reserved for me. I had always groups of them around me if I got there too early, while I told them of our hospital life in England; how bad our hospitals were forty years ago, and how nice they have become now. I told them how I had polished the brass and the taps and scrubbed mackintoshes and washed the children's flannels and sponged the ward plants when I was a "pro.," and that frequently my *surveillante* or *sous surveillante* (staff nurse), who had been a housemaid, had sent me back to scrub a mackintosh again or wash a spit-cup or bed-pan. "And you did it?" they would ask. "Certainly." "You are not a *religieuse*, why need you humble yourself and do such hard work; you are *instruite*, if you need to earn your living, why don't you teach or do something else?" they would say.

It was quite delightful being able to make these girls look upon our profession in a new light. "Ah! but," they would say, "however hard we work, and however *devoûés* we may be, we will never be respected like the nuns."

As to the lectures themselves, they have been the happiest and most interesting hours I have spent in Paris. French is such a beautiful language, and French people have such a gift of expression that it was delightful to hear one's anatomy and physiology and other subjects dished up in such eloquent language.

When the professor of anatomy stood on the platform, I thought to myself, surely this is a poet or an artist; and so he was, but a scientific one. In a few words, simple, precise, and eloquent, he painted and described a grinning skeleton, and made you feel how wonderful it was; the heart and the circulation became something beautiful in form and colouring; you saw reds and blues throbbing, flowing, blending, meeting, dashing in and out of the heart with all its little rooms and doors, which open and shut—such wonderful mechanism! And it was all so clear, a child could understand it. Still, one had to study, for there were all the technical terms to learn. It was a case of *tibia et péroné*, and not the familiar "tib and fib," *radius et cubitus*; the sternum was all right, but the scapula became the *omoplatte* and the patella the *rotule*.

It was on being suddenly examined that one got puzzled and asked oneself "Oh! which of the two is it that changes, the radius or ulna, the tibia or fibula—especially as one got accustomed to pronouncing the same words in a different way. Thus *fémur* (female) becoming *fémûre*. Much as I enjoyed the intellectual and theoretical side of the question, I must not omit to say how astonished I was at the practical training that was given. Unfortunately, as I came away, I had the privilege of attending only the medical and surgical lectures, and I was too busy at my own hospital even to attend these regularly, as they took place in the afternoons.

We had an hour on each subject—one from a

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