

they all received their reward in being appointed Matrons of Asylums within three years. The Matron of nearly every Scottish Asylum is now a certificated Hospital Nurse, and in addition to this those in charge of the asylum hospitals, and in some cases the night superintendents as well, possess a hospital training. In the Stirling District Asylum there are seven hospital nurses employed, in addition to the Matron, and as far as my experience of the system has gone, it has worked most successfully, and for the benefit of all concerned. It has opened an excellent career for hospital nurses, and above a score of them have been promoted to matronships from my asylum alone.

Much as I value the hospital nurse with asylum training as matron of the asylum, I attach even greater value to her constant presence in the asylum ward, where she is in hourly contact with the patients, sets an example to all other nurses, and is actually engaged in the practice of mental nursing. It was an easy matter to appoint hospital nurses as matrons, but I found it far from being an easy task to induce them at first to come to asylum wards and do duty there, so I regard this as the greater service done to the cause of the insane.

Hospital nurses are now not merely tolerated in asylums but welcomed, and admitted to the register of our Association on favourable terms, when we consider the absence of reciprocity that exists, owing to the disorganised state of registration, on the side of the hospital.

I shall conclude my remarks on Hospital Nurses by some opinions of their value in asylum service, my experience being probably greater and more varied than that of anyone else.

In the first place, I start off with the view that mental nursing needs far higher qualities of heart and of mind than ordinary sick nursing.

A mental nurse in the routine course of her avocation, has more demand made on her self-denial, and requires more frequently and firmly to exercise her self-control, than a hospital nurse.

She has also to be more resourceful, and she has more continuously to be attentive, alert, and observant.

Her work is also far less of a rule of thumb or of a mechanical kind than that of the hospital nurse, and a knowledge of a hospital nurse's duties are included in the training of a mental nurse.

The truth of these observations will be realised by all present and no doubt will be

frankly admitted by them, if they compare the simplicity of the nursing of an ordinary case of pneumonia with the difficulties and anxieties that are superadded when a case of pneumonia becomes delirious.

While a knowledge of the art of nursing, whether mental or sick nursing, is necessary in a good nurse, it is still more necessary for her to be a good and conscientious woman with her heart in her duties.

Such women are not the exclusive possession of any rank of society, high or low, but it is a great advantage if to these qualities there be superadded a high degree of intelligence and education.

It must be admitted, for reasons which it is unnecessary to discuss, that while asylums in the past have failed, hospitals have succeeded in attracting in quite considerable numbers the highest quality of womanhood, their *personnel* has included in large numbers the best qualities that could be got.

When, therefore, in our desire to obtain a woman of a high type for work needing a high degree of intelligence and self-denial, we select her from the ranks of hospital nurses and sisters, our action can be commended even on general grounds.

Another reason for introducing hospital nurses into asylum service is that the organisation of our large general hospitals is singularly perfect, owing, no doubt, to the splendid *personnel* they possess, and a knowledge of the administrative details of one medical institution cannot fail to be of service in another institution also devoted to medical ends. I have, however, found that a nurse who had acquired her experience in only one institution, imagines that there is only one way of doing a thing, namely, that adopted in her training school; it is therefore desirable to select women who have had a little varied experience.

It goes without saying that these women, if wisely selected and keen on the performance of their new duties, do not rest satisfied until they have organised every department of their asylums as thoroughly as the hospitals in which they have gained their experience, and the perfection to which sick nursing has attained in many of our asylums is a direct consequence of the hospital training of some members of the staff.

I may add that the extensive employment of women on the male side of the Stirling District Asylum is partly the result of the large employment of these hospital nurses, who, of course, thought it absurd that they should not be allowed to nurse male as well as female patients.

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