

## Examination and Certification of Trained Sick Nurses by the Local Government Board.

### MEMORANDUM FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF POORHOUSES IN WHICH PROBATIONER NURSES ARE TRAINED.

1. No nurse shall be engaged as a probationer whose age is under twenty or over thirty-five years.

2. No probationer shall be engaged unless she has produced evidence (1) that she is of good character, (2) that her health is good, and (3) that she has received a fair general education. The Medical Officer and Lady Superintendent of the hospital will satisfy themselves as to the candidate's character and health. In order to test the candidate's education, the Local Government Board will from time to time, as required, send an officer to the hospital to examine applicants in the following subjects:—

(a) Spelling, to be tested by dictation.

(b) Handwriting, to be judged from written papers.

(c) English, to be tested by easy questions in grammar and by ability to write a short essay.

(d) Arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions and weights and measures.

(Note.—Candidates possessing a Leaving Certificate will be exempted from this examination.)

No fee will be charged for this examination. The Board will arrange the time and place of these examinations, having special regard to the convenience of the candidates.

After examining the papers, the Board will inform the House Committee of the names of the candidates who have passed the examination. A probationer should not be formally engaged until she has had a three months' trial of the work and has satisfied the Lady Superintendent and Medical Officer that she is in every way fitted for the profession of nurse.

3. A nurse's training will extend over a period of three years, including the period of probation. During that time she will be required to attend regularly lectures by the Medical staff of the Poorhouse. There shall be at least two hours of systematic instruction in each week during seven months of the year. The lecturer shall prescribe book-work to accompany and supplement the lectures, and shall periodically set written tests, based on the book-work and lectures jointly. In addition to these tests, he shall, at the end of each session, prescribe one or more papers designed to test thoroughly whether the probationer has gained adequate knowledge of the subjects taught during the session.

4. With a view to granting each qualified nurse a parchment certificate of efficiency, the Local Government Board will, at the end, or during the currency, of the period of training, examine the probationers in the following subjects:—

(a) ELEMENTARY ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

(1) *Anatomy*.—Histological description of the tissues of the body. Description of the bones, joints, muscles, heart, blood-vessels, lymphatic

vessels, brain, spinal cord, nerves, organs of sense, and the viscera.

(2) *Physiology*.—Mechanism of the skeleton. Properties and mode of action of muscular tissue. Secretion. Functions of the organs of secretion. Excretion. Functions of the organs of excretion. The chemistry of the body. Digestion. Physiology of the blood, and of the circulation of the blood. Physiology of respiration. Functions of the nervous system and of the organs of special sense.

(b) HYGIENE AND DIETETICS.

Air in relation to health; its composition and impurities. Principles of ventilation. Heat in relation to health. Modes of heating and measurement of heat. Water in relation to health. Supply and impurities of water. Effects of impurities in air and in water on the health. Effects of exercise, rest, and occupation. Drainage of houses in relation to health. Effects of bad drainage. Clothing in relation to health. The causes of infection. Microbes; their activities and effects on health. Modes of infection. Prevention of infection. Modes of disinfection.

Classification of foods—proximate principles. Composition of foods and dietaries. Rationale of food-taking. Nutritive value of the common articles of diet. The preparation of simple articles of diet for invalids.

(c) MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING.

(1) *Medical Nursing*.—General management of the sickroom and hospital ward.

Hospital ethics, and the position of nurses relative to medical practitioners.

Drugs—their administration and action.

First aid in cases of poisoning and in emergencies generally.

An elementary knowledge of the symptoms of diseases, including infectious diseases and diseases of children, with treatment and management.

An elementary knowledge of the types of insanity, with treatment and management of the insane.

(2) *Surgical Nursing*.—The principles of, and appliances used in, antiseptic surgery. The principles of aseptic surgery and the methods of sterilisation. The management of a surgical operation. A knowledge of surgical instruments and their uses. Treatment before and after operation. An elementary knowledge of the common surgical cases, with treatment and nursing appropriate to each. Nursing of special surgical cases, e.g., head cases, tongue and mouth cases, tracheotomy cases, surgical chest cases, abdominal cases, and rectal cases. Bandaging, splints, and other immobilising apparatus.

(d) MIDWIFERY.

The bony pelvis and its contents. Organs of generation in the female. Ovulation and menstruation. Signs and symptoms of, and uterine changes in, pregnancy. Diseases of pregnancy. Abnormal pregnancy. Abortions. The foetus: diameter of head, presentations, and positions. Phenomena of labour. Mechanism of labour. The management of normal labour. Asepsis and antiseptics. Care of mother and child during puerperium. Causes of precipitate and of tardy labour, with treatment. The complications of labour, hæmorrhages, etc.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)