

Progress of State Registration.

IN BELGIUM.

"I particularly call your attention to the Royal Order of April 4th, 1908, of which I send you the official original in the issue of May 1st of our Journal."

In these words Dr. Sano, who is a regular reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, announced to us that Belgium is now to be added to the list of those countries which demand that the professional efficiency of trained nurses shall be tested by a State examination. We have deferred making the announcement until the present issue in order to do full justice to this important subject. Dr. Sano adds: "A certificate has not been obligatory in Belgium, but now it is officially established. The conditions of obtaining it cannot fail to become more stringent in the future, and the influence on the profession will be grand."

The text of the Order is as follows:—

ROYAL ORDER INSTITUTING A CERTIFICATE OF CAPACITY FOR NURSES.

Leopold II., King of the Belgians. To all present and to come. Greeting:

In connection with the resolution adopted by the Session of September 4th, 1907, in which the Provincial Medical Committee of Antwerp considers it would be useful in the public interest that all male and female nurses occupied in hospital service, or in private nursing, should hold a diploma of capacity emanating from an official authority.

On the proposition of our Minister of Agriculture, *ad interim*, we have ordered, and do order:—

Article 1.—A certificate of capacity for male and female nurses is hereby instituted.

This certificate will be awarded after an examination bearing on the subjects on the programme annexed to the present Order.

Article 2.—The Provincial Medical Committees are charged with the duty of examining into the capacity of those who desire to obtain the certificate.

For this end they shall annually delegate three doctors to attend the examinations and act as an examining board, of whom one will necessarily discharge the duties of President.

For those candidates who have attended a course of teaching according to the conditions prescribed in Article 4, Clause C, and who attend before the Medical Committee in the place in which the course has been given, the professor who has given the lectures will be added to the Examining Board.

Article 3.—There will be held annually in each province of the Medical Committee two sessions of examinations, the one in March, the other in October.

About a month in advance a notice inserted in the *Moniteur*, and in the two medical journals, will announce the date of the opening of the session as well as the period during which applications will

be received by the Secretary of the Medical Committee.

Article 4.—Candidates must be at least 18 years of age.

They must append to their application:—

A. A certificate of birth.

B. A certificate of moral character, given by the communal administration in their place of residence.

C. A certificate attesting that they have for at least one year attended a course of theoretical and practical teaching, given by a doctor of medicine, and comprising the subjects contained in the programme of the examination; or else that they have passed through a course of at least two years' duration in a public hospital or private clinique.

D. The receipt of the receiver of an application is proof that the candidate has paid to the State the sum of 10 francs for the right of examination.

Article 5.—Candidates must not present themselves before two boards of examiners in the same session.

After three successive failures, they will not be permitted to present themselves in any province.

Article 6.—The examination will be both practical and theoretical. It comprises at least one question on each of the subjects of the programme. It will be made orally, and will have a maximum duration of 45 minutes.

At the same time, if the candidate expresses the wish for it, the theoretical part of the examination can be taken in writing. In this case, the written test will not last longer than two hours, and the practical test not longer than half an hour.

The examinations will be public.

Article 7.—The certificates of capacity will be drawn up in the form ordered by the Minister of Agriculture.

Article 8.—At the close of each session, the Bureau of the Medical Committee will transmit to the Ministry, as well as to the other Medical Committees, the list of candidates who have passed, and that of those adjourned.

Article 9.—Our Minister of Agriculture is entrusted with the execution of the present Order.

Given the 4th day of April, 1908.

LEOPOLD.

The examination schedule includes the following subjects. Anatomy, physiology, the carrying out of medical directions, aseptic and antiseptic methods, the general care of the sick, including elementary knowledge of general hygiene, the hygiene of the sick; the house, the room, the bed, ventilation, heating, lighting, etc.; general care as to cleanliness; constitutions; food and drink, clothing, exercise, and rest, appearance, observation of the temperature of the patient; report to the medical attendant; assistance at operations; during illness, convalescence, at the time of death, and the last offices; first aid to the injured.

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