

The first year of the Nurse's training is spent in the Hospital, the second year either in the Hospital or in Private Nursing, as may be decided by the Superintendent.

At the end of the term of two years, the Nurse, on leaving the School, must pass a final examination, and, if successful, receives a Diploma.

In a Ward containing from twenty to thirty Patients there are, usually, three Nurses—the Head Nurse, a Senior and a Junior, or Probationer—the Head Nurse having full control of the Ward.

Under the supervision of the Superintendent of the School, the hours of "duty" are from seven in the morning to seven in the evening, with half an hour "off" for each meal, two hours for rest some time during the day, half of Sunday, and usually half a day during the week. All the Nurses, whether Probationers, or Head Nurses, have the same length of time for rest and study.

The Nurses have breakfast in the "Home" at half-past six, and must be in their Wards punctually at seven o'clock. The first duty is to give the Patients their breakfast, they all having been made ready by the Night Nurse. This meal is attended to by the Senior and Junior Nurses, the Head Nurse meanwhile receiving and overlooking the "report" from the Night Nurse, who now goes off duty for the day. After the breakfast is over the usual work in Hospitals goes on. The Wards are swept by the Ward Maid; the dusting done by the Junior or Probationer; the beds made; sponge baths and so forth given by the Senior and Junior Nurses; the Head Nurse giving the medicines and taking temperatures. All is in readiness by nine o'clock, when the Doctors appear to make their "rounds." All the Nurses accompany the Doctors, the Head Nurse receiving all orders and answering all questions; the Senior usually going in advance, preparing each case for examination; the Junior following, and restoring things to their usual orderly condition; so that when the "rounds" are completed the Ward is not in a state of general confusion.

After the Physicians have left the Ward, the Head Nurse explains to her Assistants the orders she has received, assigning to each such part of the work as she wishes her to do. The rest of the morning is spent in carrying out these orders.

The Superintendent of the School also visits the Wards, overlooks the night-reports and day-orders, inspects cupboards, &c., and receives lists of articles required from Store and Linen Rooms.

Dinner is ready for the Patients at twelve o'clock; this meal also is attended to by the Senior and Junior Nurses; the Nurses themselves taking turns in going to their meals, so that the Ward is never left without a Nurse in attendance.

In the afternoon—the heavy work being over—the Nurses take their hour or hours of rest, each in turn, as the Head Nurse directs, two Nurses being on duty the latter part of the afternoon, when the temperatures are again taken and the supper attended to. The Night Nurse goes on duty at seven o'clock. The Day Nurse in attendance, after giving all the necessary information and instructions, is at liberty. The Night Nurse makes the evening "rounds" with the Doctors.

Lectures and classes are held in the "Home" on different evenings during the week, and all Nurses, except those "on duty," must be present.

### NURSING ECHOES.

*\*\* Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

I MENTIONED a fortnight ago the present which the little patients of the Victoria Hospital for Children sent to the Princess of Wales as she was prevented from attending the recent Fête, and receiving it in person there. The Princess wrote the following characteristic letter in acknowledgment to the tiny donors:—"My dear Little Children.—I am most deeply touched by your kind thought of giving me such a beautiful silver wedding present, which I shall always keep and value more than I can express; and that God may bless you all, and soon restore you to health and happiness, is the most sincere wish and prayer of your friend, ALEXANDRA." Pathetic and appropriate commentary upon this is made public, to the effect that when Her Royal Highness's letter was received, every one of the children to whom it was addressed had already left the Hospital cured or relieved, so that the kindly prayer had been answered before it was known to have been uttered.

A CORRESPONDENT sends me the following, and asks that it should be inserted in these columns. It appears to have been an application to one of the Metropolitan Magistrates.—"A Missing Hospital Nurse.—A lady applied respecting the disappearance of her daughter, who had been missing since August 6. She had been a Nurse at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, which institution she left on the day mentioned, and she had not since been seen or heard of. Her initials were E. M. W., her age was twenty-eight, she was 5ft. 5in. in height, was near-sighted, and of late had been desponding. She was dressed in black dress, waterproof cloak, black bonnet, long veil." I sincerely trust that

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