

APPENDIX B.—SUGGESTED RULES FOR NURSES.

Duties of Nurses.

1. To attend upon the sick in the wards or Infirmary, to administer to them all medicine or stimulants, and all local or special treatment under the direction of the medical officer.
2. To be responsible for the cleanliness of the patient's person, and of the bedding, linen, and clothing.
3. To regulate the ventilation of the sick wards, lavatories, passages and day rooms, and to see that the same are kept clean by the scrubbers. In the case of any defect in the same, to report the nature of the defect in writing to the master or other officer responsible.
4. To inspect the beds, bedding, or mattresses in use in the wards at least once a fortnight, and as the beds are emptied to cause the same to be thoroughly aired and the bedstead to be scrubbed.
5. To see that the beds are properly made daily, and in all cases of serious illness or injury, to be herself responsible for the making of the same.
6. To see that all utensils are emptied immediately after use, and that they are kept clean and fresh and in their proper place, that all soiled linen is at once removed to the place of storage, and that none be kept in empty baths or cupboards. At the end of the day, and in the early morning, to send the same to the laundry.
7. To see that screens are used in all cases involving exposure or inspection of a patient, or in cases requiring rest or isolation.
8. To keep all medicine and stimulants in a proper and safe cupboard under lock and key.
9. To see that the meals are properly served, and to take especial care in the feeding of those seriously ill.
10. To attend the medical officer in his rounds, and to report to him any matter requiring his attention. In the event of any change in a patient requiring his care, to see that he is acquainted with the same as soon as possible, in accordance with the rules of the house.
11. Where there is a Night Nurse in the Infirmary the instructions for the night should be left in writing, with the names of all patients requiring extra watching. The Night Nurse should give her report in writing.
12. In the event of any infectious disease occurring in the wards, the Nurse will send the bedding to be purified, and wash the bedstead and furniture with a disinfectant immediately after the patient has been removed. If the illness be typhoid fever, erysipelas, etc., the Nurse will disinfect the linen, utensils, excreta, etc., and keep some disinfectant at hand in a basin for her own use whilst attending on the patient. She will also keep everything separate for the patient's use.
13. Nurses who are engaged in midwifery as well as general Nursing, should be careful in the daily routine of work to take their maternity cases before others. It is also desirable that they should wear washing dresses only, and that they should keep a large apron and overall sleeves for use in the lying-in ward only.
14. Nurses must conform in every respect, to the regulations of the Union wherein they work.

APPENDIX C.—MEMORANDUM.

Nursing in Workhouse Sick Wards.

In their circular letter of 5th May, 1865, the Poor-law Board, after stating the duties of a Nurse for the Workhouse as prescribed by the consolidated orders, proceeded as follows :

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

"The office is one of very serious responsibility and labour, and requires to be filled by a person of experience in the treatment of the sick, of great respectability of character, and of diligent and decorous habits. Such persons cannot discharge the duties of the office singly, but must have the assistance of others of both sexes; and there is scarcely less need of the same qualities in the persons who are to be the assistants than of those required for the chief officer.

"Hence it is necessary that the Nurses should be adequately remunerated, and that they should be appointed after a strict investigation of their qualifications for the office. But the Board consider it of the highest importance that the assistants to the Nurse should also be paid officers. By appointing paid assistants the guardians will have an opportunity of selecting persons whose qualifications for the office can be properly ascertained, and they will also be able to hold such officers responsible for negligence or misconduct, as in the case of the superior officers of the Workhouse.

"Where pauper inmates are directed to act as assistant Nurses, there is no stimulus to exertion, no test of capacity, and no responsibility for negligence.

"The Board, therefore, recommend that the guardians will, as far as possible, discontinue the practice of appointing pauper inmates of the Workhouse to act as Assistant Nurses in the Infirmary or sick ward."

That this advice did not bear more immediate fruit was, doubtless, largely due to the difficulty, at that time, of obtaining suitable Nurses.

The advance of Nursing as a calling and the system adopted in some large Workhouse Infirmarys, of training Nurses by their appointment in the first instance as Probationers, have gone far towards removing this difficulty for guardians who are prepared to assign to their officers fairly remunerative salaries and fitting accommodation.

It may, therefore, be well to draw the attention of guardians who have not as yet ceased to employ pauper assistants in the sick wards to the following considerations.

There is a great and increasing difficulty in finding among the inmates in health, persons of good character sufficiently able of body, or fit in mind, to act as Nurses. To commit the care of the sick to paupers is, therefore, frequently to entrust them to unsuitable persons, having little at stake, without interest in their work, and practically irresponsible. Skill is obviously not to be expected of such persons, but, beyond the sum of suffering which lack of knowledge implies in such matters, experience of pauper Nursing has, unhappily, not seldom exemplified the evils which indifference, cupidity, and want of forbearance may entail.

The employment of pauper inmates in sick wards is in a variety of ways, costly.

If fit for such employment, they should be fit to earn their own living, and a proof of this is often afforded by the discharges which are taken when the extras and indulgences of the sick wards are no longer forthcoming.

The removal of wards-people usually sets free a number of sick beds having a money value which may be estimated on an average at £100 per bed.

The waste and misappropriation of food which is commonly so large an item of Infirmary expenditure is largely dependent on the employment of pauper helps whose interest is selfishly concerned in its continuance.

The want of proper care of appliances is no small item of cost. It is not unusual, for example, to find a costly water-bed spoiled through want of knowledge.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)