

very cool and clean. The natives almost always go to sleep with their heads right under their blankets. I believe it is a protection against malaria. Upstairs we have separate wards for Europeans, which are very bright and home-like. The Hospital is built round a central court-yard, which has a raised roof as a protection from the sun, but is otherwise quite open so that we can get a current of air through the wards at all times. The Nurses' Home is only just finished, and is very nice indeed. The rooms are large and lofty and well-ventilated."

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THE following quotation from the Report presented by Miss LOUISE DARCHÉ, the talented Superintendent of the New York City Training School for Nurses, to the Committee, will be read with interest and instruction by British Nurses, touching as it does upon the co-operative system of training Nurses in a group of Hospitals—a system which will doubtless have to be considered when the future curriculum of uniform training comes to be discussed:—

"The annual commencement of the school, held to-day, makes it imperative that a yearly report should again be presented to you, recording something of our past year's work and experience, and bringing up our history, as a school, to present date.

It is nineteen years ago since the school, the second in the city, was inaugurated with sixteen pupil Nurses, for the purpose of Nursing the patients in the female wards of Charity Hospital; to-day, we are one of ten large schools since then established in the city, and our school consists of sixty-six Nurses in training, four supervising Nurses, a Superintendent, and an Assistant Superintendent, and is responsible for the care and Nursing of the patients in the City, Maternity, Gouverneur and Harlem Hospitals.

The special feature of the school is its connection with four different Hospitals; all, it is true, under one central Board of Control—that of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction; but, each having its own Medical Board, its own special methods of dealing with the sick, and each containing its own distinctive class of patients. While this diversity in Hospitals and patients is most beneficial for the school, giving the Nurses a wide and varied experience in Nursing, it makes the management of the school a more than ordinarily complicated and difficult affair. The two-fold object to be always kept in mind, is the training of the Nurses, and the *efficient* Nursing of the Hospitals. To give each Nurse, during her two years' course in the school, her fair share of experience and instruction in each Hospital, and in every service in each Hospital, requires an ever-revolving system; to arrange this revolving system so that it appears *not* to revolve, and is, in effect, the same as a permanent system, is the aim and purpose of our training school management.

We accomplish this by grading the work in the Hospitals into that which is most responsible, responsible, less responsible, and least responsible; and by placing Nurses to fill these graded posts of responsibility, according to their experience and ability; all managed under a system of constant surveillance and practical instruction, and so arranged that the Nurse has already acquired a knowledge of the next step higher before she is allowed to take it.

In City Hospital we have large wards and principally chronic patients. It is in these wards we first place our new Nurse or Probationer; for, having here a junior, senior and head Nurse over her, she is made to learn the simplest forms of Nursing and ward work, and is not permitted during the month of probation any responsibility whatever. At the end of a month, having learned a round of subordinate duties and

shown an aptitude for Nursing, she is allowed to don cap and uniform and becomes a junior member of the school. As junior Nurse, her duties become by degrees slightly more responsible, and sometimes she relieves on senior work. After six months, and passing the junior examination, she is ranked "senior," and now has arrived at what is termed "the responsible grade" of Hospital work. She may now be called to enter upon the duties of the maternity service, where, under the immediate charge of the supervising Nurse of Maternity Hospital, she will gain experience peculiar to that service. Here too she will have charge of a small ward and learn something of Hospital management.

The Gouverneur and Harlem Hospitals, situated in the northern and southern portions of the city, are emergency and reception Hospitals. Two ambulances, at each of these Hospitals, are constantly bringing in sick and wounded from the surrounding neighbourhood, and here the Nurses come in contact with a new order of things. To these Hospitals the Nurses are sent in their second year, and when they are well on in their senior course. Here again the system of graded responsibility in the management of the Nursing is carried out, the supervising Nurse, responsible for all, the head Nurse under her having charge of the operating room and the practical training of the Nurses, the senior Nurse and Staff filling in their respective places. The six months a Nurse spends in these Hospitals gives her experience in Nursing all kinds of acute medical and surgical cases, and in dealing with the emergencies which these Hospitals continuously supply.

The last six months of a Nurse's time in the school is spent acting as head Nurse in the large wards in City Hospital, in filling the position of head Nurse in the Maternity, Gouverneur, or Harlem Hospitals, or in taking care of operation cases where experienced Nursing is specially required.

The course of training thus pursued ensures a thorough training in method, order, accuracy, and attention to detail, principally gained during the first year in City Hospital; while, during the second year, the service in the outlying Hospitals develops self-reliance, self-control, adaptability, quickness of observation, and gives a knowledge of the higher responsibilities of Nursing.

The Nurses' Home, which may be considered the heart of this system, is situated pleasantly on the south point of the Island. Here the Nurses reside and go daily or nightly, as the case may be, to the Hospitals where they are stationed on duty, and here they rest during the evening, and when they have their weekly half-day or every second Sunday. The social ties here formed are one of the pleasant features of the school. Since its enlargement, last year, the Home has a capacity of forty-five bedrooms, four bathrooms, two dining rooms, two store-rooms, cloak-room, linen-room, trunk-room, kitchen, and two pantries. It also has a large library or parlour, a class-room, a study, and a private sitting room. It is heated by steam and lighted by *kerosene lamps*. Notwithstanding this last drawback, which we hope soon to have remedied, we find the Home a very pleasant place to live in, situated as it is in its own grounds, and removed from all immediate Hospital surroundings. To show how the home-life is appreciated by the Nurses, I will quote from a letter but lately received from a recent graduate: Among other things, she says: 'I am feeling really home-sick, and though I have been more successful outside than I expected, I miss the pleasant home life of the training school.'

But, to return to our system of management, not only is the School responsible for the Nursing of the four Hospitals with which it is connected; it is also responsible in these Hospitals for the duties usually pertaining to the matron or house-keeper. The supervising Nurses at the Harlem and Gouverneur Hospitals also act as housekeepers of these Hospitals, while the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent act as Matron and Assistant Matron of the City and Maternity Hospitals. In this way, the friction of a dual authority over

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