

The effect will be to stimulate Nurses to supplement the training they may have obtained in small Hospitals, or Hospitals where training in all the required branches has not been available, by a further course in some other Hospital—gynæcological, contagious, or maternity, as the case may be. A Nurse in this way gains her experience in several institutions, and finally, by producing satisfactory evidence of her knowledge, theoretical and practical, in the requisite subjects, obtains the certificate of the "Training School Association."

The smaller Hospitals and Institutions, meanwhile, would receive an equal benefit, as they would be able in this way to secure more experienced Nurses than they could otherwise obtain. Later on, if thought advisable, other subjects could be added from time to time to the curriculum, and more stringency observed in the preliminary and final examinations; this, together with more and more careful training in the details of ward work and actual Nursing, with careful records kept as to the essential details in individual cases, would be calculated to raise the profession of Nursing in such a way as to hasten the time when the ideal should be attained, and State recognition an actual reality.

And now now to sum up what has been presented with the object of bringing about uniformity of education in the various Training Schools for Nurses throughout the United States and Canada, the following uniform conditions are suggested:—

(1) That a uniform matriculation examination be required before admission. This examination could be of an elementary character at first, and the standard raised as circumstances indicated. It is recommended, however, that preliminary qualification, such as a thorough English education, and a knowledge of literature and matters of general interest, are always desirable for those who minister to the sick.

(2) That a uniform period of training be required in certain Hospitals recognised by a central Committee or Association. That this training shall embrace medical, surgical, and gynæcological Nursing, supplemented by a given number of lectures, &c., the character and extent of which shall be sufficient to qualify the Nurse to perform the practical part of her work with intelligence and skill.

(3) That certain examinations shall be passed by a Nurse subsequent to matriculation, and before receiving a certificate. These examinations to be divided into primary and final; the primary to be held at the end of the first year, and the final at the end of the second year. These examinations could be held by individual Training Schools, and in the event of a Nurse

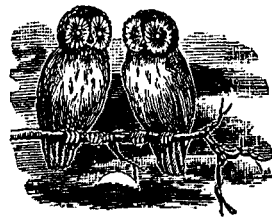
removing to some other institution to take up some special line of work, on presenting certificate of such training, and having passed the subjects embraced in the curriculum, such subjects could be proportioned and allowed.

In this way a curriculum could be definitely established, and advanced from time to time as it was found possible or necessary, to elevate or perfect the standard. Further, that such a curriculum could be adopted by such an Association as the present, or, if thought advisable, by an independent board of prominent medical men, residing in various parts of the continent, and interested in Hospital work and the systematic training of Nurses. I quote the following as the opinion of one of our prominent medical men:—

"I feel sure that the work of Trained Nursing carried on in an organised manner would tend to the greatest possible benefit. It will only be a matter of comparatively short time when the medical profession and the public will know what such a certificate would mean as a qualification, and I feel sure would beget not only a great degree of confidence in the possession of it, but also a superior character of work on the part of those who are desirous of being fully qualified, and bringing the profession of Trained Nursing to that degree of eminence to which I feel it is fairly entitled."

As this "paper" is chiefly suggestive, I beg to close by recommending the appointment of a committee, with power to add to its number, to take the whole subject into consideration, and communicate by circular or otherwise with the members of this Association some time during the year, so that we may be in a position to take some definite action at the next Annual Meeting of this Association.

Matrons in Council.



SURGEON LT.-COLONEL EVATT will read a paper entitled "The Organisation and Working of Medical Aid to the Wounded in Modern War," before the Matrons' Council on the evening of April 18th, at 8.30 p.m., at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, and as he has been good enough to express a wish to lay his scheme before the Nursing profession, it is hoped that all Matrons who are interested in this important subject will apply for tickets to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Andrews, 22, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, S.W., for themselves and such members of their Nursing staff who are able to be present. Discussion will be invited, and tea and coffee will be served in the Library at the end of the meeting.

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