

and it should be the duty of the Nurse on day-duty who attends the medical men, to copy these on the Case paper kept for that purpose in a portfolio with the temperature chart, in the sick room, so that they are open to the inspection of the Doctor, Superintendent, and Sister, when they visit the patient. Much might be written on this subject, but suffice it to say that the aspect of these notes are a very good test of the Nurse's character and capability; the ideal notes are kept with extreme neatness and accuracy, in terse sentences, stating the exact facts concerning the patient and the treatment, without undue verbosity upon the part of the Nurse, the medical man does not need her *opinions*, but the accurate result of her observations in as few words as possible. A record of the temperature, pulse, respiration, and a note of the excretions should be marked on the chart, and in the Notes a summary of the daily progress of the patient, noticing the appetite, sleep, and nervous condition. These Notes should all be filed by the Sister upon the departure of a patient, as they are often useful to the doctor for future reference. We are of opinion that careful Note-taking is of the very greatest educational value to a Nurse during the whole of her Nursing career, and hope that it will form a part of the suggested "Uniform Curriculum of Education" in the near future.

At 10.30 the Nurse will, if she is wise, take a glass of milk, and bread and butter, or a cup of hot milky tea. After 11 a.m. the near relations of the patients will begin their visits, and it is in dealing with these anxious ones, that much sympathy, consideration, and tact, is needed upon the part of the Nurse. She must always make them feel welcome and at home, and realise that in spite of the pessimistic tendency of the writers of the age, and the supposed revolt in the inner circle of family life, that the well-spring of human affection is as fresh and fathomless to-day as it has ever been, and that love and devotion to parents, to wife, to husband, and to child, are the great redeeming features in our somewhat faulty human nature. No woman who has carefully observed the attitude of one blood-related human being towards another, in sickness—from whatever class in life they come—need have any more doubt as to the overwhelming power of human love as the greatest and most potent factor in the history of human progress. Therefore, Nurses, recognise this force and honour it—and never be guilty of thoughtlessly assuming that any scientific knowledge on your part can give you prior rights and influence in this Kingdom of Love—where the mother's heart vibrates to that of *her own child*, and where the sanctity of true marriage has hallowed the bond of man and woman—it is a realm into which no stranger can ever enter. It is the Nurse's duty, therefore, not in any way to obtrude herself between the patient and his near relations; she may leave them alone to converse at ease—only being careful, as the *trained nurse*, to herself perform all nursing offices for him. She alone must regulate the ventilation in regard to windows and fires—she alone must offer the regulated diet, and so arrange bed and bedding according to scientific direction. She will also be careful that all personal attention to the patient is accorded when alone.

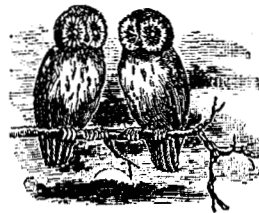
The nurses' dinner will be at 12.30, and before leaving her patient she will take a last look round, see that he has every thing within reach, and inquire if he has all he needs.

Matrons in Council.

A UNIFORM CURRICULUM OF EDUCATION FOR NURSES.

BY MISS ISLA STEWART.

(Concluded from page 332.)



THE final examination should be at the close of the training, and the Nurse's ability to pass that should determine if she ought to be awarded a certificate then, or be referred back for six months' more work in the wards. I think the case

is rare when, after careful selection at first, and exclusion at the end of the first year, that any woman need be definitely refused a certificate, but I think there are many Nurses who, not having made the most of their opportunities, are none the worse of the ignominy of failure, and the chance of righting themselves by a further experience.

Question nine asks, "By whom should those examinations be conducted?" Nearly all the answers to those questions suggest an independent body of Examiners, a few suggest that only the final need be conducted by this Board. A few think that the Matron alone should conduct the Intermediate. I think the question a much more difficult one than these ladies are inclined to think it. The examination itself is a difficulty, as we must all agree that the most essential qualities of a Nurse are just those which cannot be proved by examinations, and can only be known to those who are able by constant observation to see that the candidate possesses them. Yet many of the ladies who have answered the question think that for fear of any partiality being exercised, the physicians and surgeons at the Hospital should not examine, when, in order to get the slightest clue to the real acquirements of the Nurse, the Matron must, from evidence supplied to her, make some award in the examination. Such matters as good conduct, obedience, good memory (for practical and theoretic memory is not always the same, and the same Nurse who can repeat accurately the bones of the skeleton may habitually forget a two-hour medicine), kindness, pleasant manners, &c., can only be ascertained by reference to the Matron and her books. All Matrons who have experience of examinations and their results must remember how often their best Nurse has either failed to take a good place, or sometimes a place at all. I agree that in the near future, when State Registration is an accomplished fact, the Central Examining Body is a necessity, but I see enormous difficulties in its path, and in its formation, and also considerable heart-burnings and disappointments in its results. Examination is at its best a very inadequate test of a Nurse, but when despoiled of the results of personal supervision, I see great pit-falls into which it may drop. In all reforms something that was good in the old system is lost, and something that is not desirable is gained in the new; it is the price we pay for new brooms. The point for consideration is, if the good we gain is greater than the good we lose. In this case I think it will be some method, which will increase, will be

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