

Training Schools for Nurses.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON A UNIFORM CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES IN AMERICA.*

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At the last annual meeting of this Association of American Superintendents of Training Schools held in Boston, February 13th and 14th, 1895, the question of uniformity of education in Training Schools for Nurses was discussed, the imperfections of the present system deplored, and the need and desirability of greater uniformity conceded. A Committee was appointed to take the whole matter into consideration and report at the next annual meeting, which took place at Philadelphia in February of this year.

Your Committee has the honour to submit the following report:—

With a view to bringing about a certain amount of uniformity in the various Nursing Schools here represented, the following uniform conditions are recommended:

First, Practical Nursing.—In order to obtain a practical experience in the art of nursing, each pupil Nurse should be required to spend two years in a general Hospital containing not less than 150 beds, or three years in a general Hospital containing not less than 75 beds, where experience can be obtained in medical, surgical and gynæcological wards, a given time to be spent in each. In Hospitals containing 150 beds—six months each on medical and surgical wards, and three months on gynæcological wards; while in Hospitals containing only 75 beds, the service could be nine months each on medical and surgical wards, while six months could be given to gynæcological service.

It is also understood that this part of a Nurse's training should be conducted under the supervision of an experienced and capable head Nurse, whose duty it is to see that pupil Nurses are taught properly, and not allowed to work haphazard.

It is also recommended that this practical experience in the art of nursing be supplemented by a given number of lessons on anatomy, physiology, materia medica, and practical nursing, of such a nature as will enable the Nurse to perform the practical part of her work intelligently, not mechanically.

The school can be divided into two classes, consisting of senior and junior, and the year into two terms of 20 weeks each. First term

from October until February, second term from February until July. This division will allow three months—July, August and September—in which arrangements can be made for holidays without interfering with the curriculum.

It will be observed that no mention is made in the appended curriculum of such subjects as obstetrics, massage, invalid cookery, &c. These subjects have been omitted, not because they are considered non-essential, nor, indeed, because they are not taught both theoretically and practically in many schools, but simply because our present aim is general uniformity along broad general lines, these being secured advancement in other particulars will necessarily follow.

The curriculum as it stands is by no means ideal. It is presented simply with a view to obtaining uniformity in methods and subjects, each school, as heretofore, will be expected to manifest its individuality in the selection of text books, adjustment of its curriculum, examinations, &c.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

First Term.—Twenty Weeks.

PRACTICAL NURSING.

- Lesson 1.—Beds.—Bed Making for Bed Patients, Convalescent Patients, Operation Cases, and Fracture Cases; Mechanical Appliances for the Relief of such Patients.
- Lesson 2.—Hygiene of the Sick-room and Ward: Air—Methods of Ventilating; Temperature of Sick-room; Disposal of Excreta; Care of Soiled Linen.
- Lesson 3.—Care of Bed Patients; Bathing—Prevention of Bed-sores; Care of Mouth; What to Observe; What to Report; Care of Convalescents.
- Lesson 4.—Baths—Kinds; Methods of Administration of Simple and Medical Baths.
- Lesson 5.—General and Local Baths.
- Lesson 6.—Bacteriology as Applied to Nursing; Disinfection of Rooms, Furniture, Clothing; Sputum, &c.
- Lesson 7.—Enemata—Kinds, Methods of Administration.
- Lesson 8.—Temperature; Pulse; Respiration.
- Lesson 9.—Douches—Simple, Medicated, Modes of Administration, Catheterization.
- Lesson 10.—External Applications; Moist and Dry Heat; Cold Applications; Modes of Administration.
- Lesson 11.—Counter Irritants—Mustard, Iodine, Turpentine, Cupping, Blistering.
- Lesson 12.—Disinfectant Solutions.
- Lesson 13.—Surgical Nursing—Preparation of Patients for Operations (capital and minor); Care of Patients after Operation.
- Lesson 14.—Surgical Nursing—Fractures, Dislocations, Splints, Extensions, &c.
- Lesson 15.—Gynæcology—Positions, Instruments, Dressings, Operations.
- Lesson 16.—Gynæcological—Terms, Definitions.
- Lesson 17.—Materia Medica—Introduction.
- Lesson 18.—Materia Medica.

* Read at the Convention of American Superintendents at Philadelphia, February, 1896.

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