

training of the Mental Nurses into whose direct personal care are confided these afflicted and helpless cases, who, bereft of reason, cannot protect themselves.

Fifthly, it is the Royal British Nurses' Association which should in a wide and generous spirit welcome into its ranks all those who, being as well qualified in their special work as they are themselves in theirs, are engaged in alleviating human suffering, and are thus adding to the happiness and well-being of the community. It will add immensely to its strength and stability, and widely extend its large and increasing sphere of usefulness.

I am, &c.,

T. OUTTERSON WOOD.

Member of Executive Committee, R.B.N.A.
Margaret Street, W.
Dec. 14th."

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

EXAMINATION FOR NURSING CERTIFICATE.

- (1) Describe fully the skin and its parts; what are its uses?
- (2) What are the cavities of the trunk, how are they separated from each other, and what do they contain?
- (3) Describe arterial, venous, and capillary hæmorrhage, and how would you arrest (a) arterial, (b) venous bleeding from the arms and legs?
- (4) Classify the foods: What digestive fluids aid the absorption of each class of food?
- (5) What are the rules to be observed in the management of an insane patient known to have heart disease, and subject to attacks of syncope?
- (6) In what way would you proceed to form an opinion of a person's mental state? Mention the more common forms of insanity.
- (7) Describe fully the meaning of the atmosphere of a ward being close or stuffy. What do you understand by the proper ventilation of a ward, and how is this ensured?
- (8) What are the chief causes which induce an insane patient to attempt suicide; and what are the modes of self-destruction usually adopted by (a) males, (b) females?
- (9) What is an hallucination? Mention the chief forms, and explain why they are so important as symptoms of insanity.
- (10) What is a bedsore? Is it a preventable disease? Describe fully how you would guard against its formation.
- (11) In (a) epileptic, (b) paralytic, and (c) senile cases, what dangers might occur, and what precautions should be adopted?
- (12) Mention the special points to be observed in the bathing of patients.

Three hours allowed to answer this paper.

The questions are valued at ten marks each; two-thirds of the possible total of marks are required to pass.

We consider it only fair to republish also the following letter from the *British Medical Journal* :—

"SIR,—Asylum men must be charitable to Dr. Biernacki, as it is evident he writes of matters of which he is inadequately acquainted. It is true that the Council of the Medico-Psychological Association has been invited by the Royal British Nurses' Association to consider the advisability of having the names of trained Asylum Attendants entered on the Register of the last-named Association. But there is no cause for alarm. The invitation extends to those who hold the Nursing certificate of the Medico-Psychological Asso-

ciation, and these people are as well trained and as highly qualified for their work as any other trained Nurse in the country.

To gain the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association it is necessary to have three years' Asylum training, to attend during that time lectures and demonstrations, to pass two searching examinations in elementary anatomy and physiology, and to show a sound knowledge of the general care and management of the sick. The standard of proficiency required at these examinations is quite as high as that demanded at any Hospital.

It has never been suggested that all Asylum Attendants should be registered, either by the Royal British Nurses' Association or anybody else.

In his darkness Dr. Biernacki asks, 'Let the Asylum Attendants organise themselves, start a Register, adopt—not as at present, in one or two Institutions, but generally—a sufficient curriculum.' Might I inform your correspondent that Asylum Attendants have a Register of their own, and surely the curriculum as set out above is 'sufficient.' He may be pleased to know, also, that the system of training referred to above is in operation in every Asylum in the three kingdoms with one exception; and, further, that Hospital-trained Nurses may secure the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association after one year's Asylum training and passing the final examination.

This being the status of the persons which it is suggested should be admitted to the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I take it that in their registration there cannot possibly be any 'injustice to the fully-trained Nurse.'

I am, &c.,

Northampton,
Dec. 12th." S. A. L. STRAHAN, M.D.

AN OFFICIAL DICTATORSHIP.

First of all, before attempting to analyse Dr. Wood's arguments in favour of his scheme, we would ask him upon what authority he states that, alluding to Asylum Attendants, "Their qualifications for admission into the Association as Mental Nurses are to be three years' training in a Hospital or Asylum for the insane, containing not less than forty beds, and that they shall hold the certificates of the Medico-Psychological Association for proficiency in Nursing; and bring certificates of good moral character. . . . The conditions under which they shall be admitted are that they will come in a distinct class of Nurses, with a separate department in the Register, a distinctive badge, and that they shall be enrolled as M.N.R.B.N.A.—that is, Mental Nurses of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and not M.R.B.N.A., to distinguish them from purely Hospital-trained Nurses."

The Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have never been consulted this question so vital to their professional interests, and Dr. Wood's regulations for the admission of Asylum Attendants on to the Register of Trained Nurses, have, we imagine, been drawn

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