

colleges, or, by the institution of preliminary schools attached to the large general hospitals, and candidates for posts as probationers in hospitals should either present their certificates for the various branches of knowledge necessary, or submit themselves to an examination by the Matron and Medical Staff of the nursing school which they desire to enter. The holders of the certificates, given upon passing the Oxford and Cambridge Local Senior Examinations, or the Second Class College of Preceptors' Examinations, should be dispensed from a preliminary examination in general knowledge, but this should be tested in the case of all other candidates. I would suggest that preliminary nursing education should be divided in the following manner:—

The Domestic Arts.—To include proficiency in dietary for the sick, needlework, and cleaning.

Practical Nursing.—To include the personal care of the patient, bedmaking, bathing in all its various details, external applications, general and local, the use of the clinical thermometer, preparation of patients for examination and operations, preparation of operating theatre, care and cleansing of surgical instruments and appliances, preparation and use of lotions, bandaging, splint padding, and the preparation of dressings.

Nursing Ethics, including hospital etiquette, manners, and discipline.

Theoretical Nursing.—Elementary anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics, hygiene, and massage.

Having successfully passed through this preliminary teaching, preferably in a residential college, the candidate would then be admitted as a probationer into the wards of a hospital, where I should advise that a term of three years' training and experience should be passed. I would divide her practical experience in the wards in the following manner:—As *probationer* on day duty for eighteen months, three months to be spent respectively in male and female medical wards, three months in male and female surgical wards, six months in special wards including those of a Fever Hospital, during which period of training she should receive systematic clinical instruction given by the Sister of the ward, courses of lectures and demonstrations during the same period on the nursing of diseases in special sections, each surgical operation in the general wards, and lectures and demonstrations on the special diseases of each organ as treated separately by specialists, including diseases of the brain, eye, ear, throat, skin, and infectious diseases. The following eighteen months should be spent on alternate night and day duty as a *staff probationer*. A *staff nurse* should signify a certificated nurse.

While speaking on the subject of preliminary education I should like to point out that the Glasgow Royal Infirmary and the London Hospital have instituted a preliminary course of instruction for probationers, and that the practical experience of these institutions has amply proved the necessity,

and the advantages, of this preliminary training. The American training schools also are beginning to inaugurate a system of preliminary education.

(To be continued).

Nursing Politics.

WOMEN are supposed to monopolise the propensity to gossip, but any casual passers by the great club windows in Piccadilly and Pall Mall, who peeping in, and catching a glimpse of the male members luxuriating in tea and muffins, feels convinced that high politics do not constitute the entire subject of conversation. Indeed, we are glad to find that the ordinary club-man takes a vital interest in all questions of the hour, and that amongst the rest, he is giving some consideration to the affairs of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and as expressed by "Fair Play" in another column, he has formed opinions on this burning question calculated to be very helpful to those who are in open revolt against the present mismanagement of the Nurses' Association by the honorary officers. No doubt the trickery and intimidation of the nurses strike gentlemen and men of the world as altogether outrageous, and it is to enlightened members of the general public that we must now appeal. It is the public who will suffer by deterioration in the standard of education and morale demanded for membership and registration under the Royal Charter, recommended by the present officials, and we have no doubt the public will speedily protest against any such misuse of the Royal Charter. Anyway, it is good news that the scandal is being much discussed in the clubs, and that the general opinion of gentlemen is that "bullying women is bad form and must be put a stop to." We heartily endorse the sentiment!

We are not surprised that medical men of high professional standing decline any longer to be associated with the persons who now compose the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses Association, and we think the nurses should demand to know through their professional journal the names of the few persons who now attend the Registration Board. We feel sure no trained nurse who had been educated in a training school of good standing would submit her certificates of training to the scrutiny of two or three persons, the majority of whom are either unattached to hospitals of any standing, or preside over institutions where the training of the nurses is of an obsolete order, if she was aware that very often her application was submitted to a Committee so composed. The whole system of registration is reduced to a farce under the existing régime, and the nurses from the leading training schools have wisely and effectually protested against the present management by refusing to register at all.

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