

by us, and we stand by her, and we would not change her for anybody."

THE TRAINING AT THE MILLS SCHOOL.

Men are taken on a month's trial, during which time they receive no pay; if they are considered suitable, they are then elected as probationers by the Board of Management under a two years' agreement. During the month's probation, they are required to pass an examination in General Education, in order to prove that they are possessed of at least average general knowledge. They then are placed on day duty, and when they have been in the Hospital from 3—5 months, they are put on night duty, in charge of two medical, or three surgical, wards, under a Night Superintendent. This, they say, develops their own resources, and as they have many acute cases, they smilingly assured me there is no time to go to sleep. The night nurses are on duty from 8—8. They take their meals over each night from the School, and make their coffee in the ward kitchen. The day nurses are on duty from 8—12, and from 1—8, and every alternate night they are relieved at 6. They also have a half-day a week and half-a-day on Sunday. It is a rigid rule that they must be in at 10 o'clock. When on duty, they wear a white duck uniform, with military cut coat, buttoned to the neck. Rubber heels on the shoes are also regulation. During their training, the nurses are required to attend lectures twice a week. These begin at the college season in September and are continued till June, when there is a vacation. Each lecturer gives 15 lectures, and they receive 90 in their two years' course, besides 20 on Swedish movements. They are instructed in anatomy and surgery, the symptoms, treatment and care of diseases, they are also taught massage and Swedish movements, and the preparation of food for the sick, such as bouillon, ices, and other delicacies. Demonstrations are also given on bandaging. In April and September each year, examinations are held, each examiner setting 10 questions, and one examiner gives a very rigid oral examination. The candidates are required to obtain 75 per cent. of marks in order to gain a certificate. During the first six months Mrs. Willard gives a quiz to the pupils from time to time on practical nursing, and before each lecture the lecturer gives a quiz on the preceding one, and the pupils are marked for their answers.

COMPENSATION.

While training, the undergraduates are boarded and lodged at the expense of the School, and provided with washing. Their quarters are, they say, most comfortable. After the first month, they receive 10 dollars a month while training, for incidental expenses, but no salary.

STIMULANTS.

There is a rigid rule that the undergraduates must not touch stimulants, and any one breaking this is at once expelled. The use of tobacco while on duty is also prohibited.

WORK.

The undergraduates are trained in the nursing of medical, surgical, alcoholic, and insane patients; also there are erysipelas wards, and prison wards. To these last are admitted suicides, or those wounded by the police during their capture. Frequently there are very severe surgical cases amongst these, and they are treated in the hospital as hospital cases. The windows of the wards are, however, barred, and the nurses are locked in the wards by the police, and guarded.

DUTIES OF MALE NURSES.

The Chief Nurses—who are pupils in their second year, with the exception of the Chief Nurse in the insane ward, who is a graduate nurse—go round the wards every day with the doctors. All orders are entered in the day book, and this is signed by the doctor before leaving the ward.

In connection with each ward is a drug closet, for which the head nurse of the ward is responsible. He makes out each day a list of what is required from the stores, which is also countersigned by the doctor, and then sent down to the dispensary.

In the surgical wards all the minor, and many of the major dressings are done by the nurses. The hospital education of medical students in the United States appears to be mostly theoretical, with the result that the main part of the practical work is left to the nurses. They have proved themselves the right hand of medical men, and only recently one of the surgeons at Bellevue was heard to say that he would not undertake an operation without nurses, as he considered that their services were absolutely indispensable. The nurses are thoroughly trained in the principles of asepsis. Their value in the care of patients between the visits of a medical man is, therefore, obvious. They are also instructed in preparing all medicated dressings, and lotions, and in the administration of all forms of baths.

As there is only one nurse on duty in one or even more wards at night, should any operation be performed, the day nurse in charge is summoned by telephone, and he conducts all the nursing arrangements in connection with the operation.

THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The duties of the Superintendent, Mrs. Willard, can be no sinecure, for, in addition to maintaining discipline amongst 75 young men, and attending to the other multifarious duties pertaining to her

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