

Matrons in Council.

THE DUTCH MATRONS' COUNCIL.

IN the issue of April 7th I have already told the readers of the NURSING RECORD of the existence of the Dutch Matrons' Council. At that period the young Association was still in its initial stage, and as yet the Matrons' Council has borne a local character, its members being only Matrons of Amsterdam hospitals, who discussed in their monthly meetings the most prominent nursing matters and gave their opinions in different cases. It was in some respect an experiment, but it proved to be crowned with a brilliant success, and encouraged by this result, the members of the Council felt the lively desire of extending the local Matrons' Council to a general Council, in which the Matrons of all the hospitals throughout our whole country should take their seats as members.

The Rotterdam Matrons were the first to take notice of the aims and objects of the new Association, and after many preliminary discussions, the regulations of the Dutch Matrons' Council were fixed in its recently held meeting.

At present the Dutch Matrons' Council has only members at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the two principal towns of our country. Stimulated by the wish of bringing the existence of the Council to the notice of *all* Dutch Matrons of hospitals, houses of deaconesses, Homes for Sisters, district-nursing, etc., its members have made the *Maandblad voor Ziekverpleging*, our monthly Nursing Magazine, the vehicle, by the means of which they hope to place the aims of the Council before those persons likely to be interested in the work. The Secretary is Miss J. P. Reynvaan, Honorary Member of the English Matrons' Council.

HOLLANDIA.

THE BRITISH MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Matrons' Council will now shortly begin its winter session of work, and has many important matters under consideration. Chief among these is the formation of the National Council of Nurses. It is important that this should soon be arranged, in order that the British nurses may be officially represented, through their own National Council, at the International Congress in Buffalo next year. The suggestions made at the Council Meeting in the summer will now be considered by the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the question, and is incorporated in the Draft Constitution. A Meeting of the Executive Committee has been arranged for the 18th of this month, and of the Council for November 1st.

The Administration of Medicines.

A lecture to Probationers at the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, by the Matron,

MISS HELEN TODD.

The administration of medicines is one of a nurse's most important duties and one in which conscientious accuracy is essential both as to the measurement of the exact amount ordered by the physician and the time at which it is to be given to the patient.

In the first place all doses must be measured in a graduated glass and not poured haphazard into a tumbler, the nurse trusting to her "eye" or the marks on the medicine bottle for the accuracy of the required amount. Spoons are equally unreliable, nearly every makers' having a different capacity; some large teaspoons holding the same as a small dessert spoon, while a large dessert spoon may be almost identical with a small tablespoon.

It is also almost impossible to measure exactly very small quantities in a glass with a large internal base, thus \mathfrak{z} i should be measured in a minim glass rather than in a medicine tumbler, the nurse bearing in mind that in all probability so small a dose will contain a concentrated or very powerful drug, and serious consequences may ensue from the smallest overdose. For the same reason a nurse must never attempt to measure in an ordinary minim glass any amount less than $\mathfrak{m}\nu$ or an odd number not marked on the glass. Such doses as $\mathfrak{m}\text{iii}$ tinct. opii are not unfrequently prescribed in hospital work for children, and are nearly always ordered to be diluted in water or some other liquid before being given to the little patient.

The proper method of preparing such a dose is to multiply the numbers of minims to be given by 5, make it up to $\mathfrak{z}\nu$ with water (or the other dilutant specified) and administer \mathfrak{z} i: thus if $\mathfrak{m}\nu\text{ii}$ are ordered, measure $\mathfrak{m}\text{xxxv}$, or if $\mathfrak{m}\text{ii}$ measure $\mathfrak{m}\text{x}$, in each case make it up to $\mathfrak{z}\nu$ and give \mathfrak{z} i.

Some drugs, such as cocaine, are often ordered in solutions of a certain strength, for example, "a 5 per cent. solution." This means that 100 minims of the solution contain 5 grains of the dry. Fifteen per cent. would be three times as strong, as 5 times 3=15.

Other drugs, again, such as bromide or choral, are made up in varying strengths, so many grains in the drachm or ounce; great care must be exercised in giving such doses. I remember a case where a patient had for some time been taking a sleeping draught of a certain strength; the bottle one day was filled by the dispenser with a solution containing twice as many grains; the nurse never troubled to read the label, gave the same sized dose as usual, and the patient nearly died.

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