

often develops more or less into the consultant, and so obtains increased fees.

I speak, of course, of the general practitioner rather than of the specialist.

Compare this, then, with the present-day nurse's training. She must waste five of the best years of her life before beginning her education, she is 27 before she can earn anything, she is looked upon as being past work at 40. She has 13 years in which she must not only earn her living, but save enough money for her old age.

Very often, owing to the hard work of her training, her health is so undermined that she is unable to continue working, and is left to be cared for and supported by her friends.

This hard work which she had to do, had very little to do with her nursing education—it was for the benefit of the hospital, and she was obliged to do it, whether she liked it or not.

A medical student does nothing but what goes to improve his own education.

Therefore a nurse's training can be summed up by long hours, unnecessarily hard work, a small proportion of her uniform, badly or indifferently cooked food, a very limited supply of washing, and a very small salary.

If nurses are to pay for their training, what should they expect in return?

First, an eight or nine hour day (this, I think, already exists in two hospitals—King's College and the Glasgow Infirmary). The scrubbing part of her education to be strictly limited to three or four months, and this should be, if possible, in the preparatory school or home, and before actual entry into hospital work.

She would then have more time to learn her duties, and her superiors more time to teach, also the patients would be better nursed than at present. The ward-cleaning should be done by ward maids or charwomen.

Much greater attention should be paid to the nurses' diet, that it should not only be good and wholesome in quality, but well prepared and served, and with constant variety. The service at table should be sufficient to enable all to be well and efficiently served, also a definite time should be fixed for meals, so that they may be taken in peace and comfort, and not hurried through and scrambled for, as so often obtains at present.

A larger washing supply should be granted, or may be they will then have to pay their own bills; but as a nurse's work entails a plentiful supply of clean aprons, etc., the hospital should, I think, supply this, also an adequate uniform.

The lecturers should be chosen not only for their position in their own branch of work, but for their capacity for imparting knowledge; there

should also be a nurse lecturer to teach the nursing and to relieve the Matron of the added task of teaching as well as organizing. More lectures, of course, would be given; this would be necessary and possible when there is one person kept to do that only, and the nurses, having shorter hours of work, would have more time for study.

The Nurses' Home should be a home indeed; the nurses' rooms should be their own, where they might invite their friends and have their little tea parties without fear of rules or invasions.

The Library should be of the best, containing all possible works on *nursing*, as well as novels and books of reference, so that it would not be necessary for each nurse to buy a small library of nursing books as it is at present.

This may seem odd to many, yet I think I am correct in stating that the Library of one hospital in London contains no books at all on nursing.

In those days there will be a Central Examining Board, so that nurses shall pass purely on their merits; no Matron or doctor should examine their own students. A universal system of marks should be adopted, showing the progress made in the various wards through which the nurse passes. These should be shown to and made up by the Central Board, so that not the slightest suspicion of favouritism should exist when the relatives of doctors, governors or officials come out top.

When training schools are in reality schools for the actual teaching of nursing, and not for the mere gathering in of "pros" to help work the hospital, and nurses are offered such conditions as I have described, then they will, I think, willingly pay for their training; but whilst hospital authorities offer so little, whilst expecting so much, certainly nurses should not pay for their training.

In those days when nurses have more leisure, Leagues, Clubs and Alumnæ will flourish amazingly, because nurses will have time and strength to devote to them. The spirit of fellowship and friendship will be strengthened, because the nurses will not have all their strength and vitality crushed out of them in the struggle to get through their allotted daily tasks.

We shall hear less, too, of the hard work and strain upon health and strength which the learning of nursing entails, still less of health being undermined or broken down.

Then, too, as work under these new conditions will be so much easier, the age of entry for the probationer will be reduced, until in the future, I foresee, girls leaving their high schools and entering the nursing schools without the waste of

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