

bleeding, but they are not allowed to give vaginal douches, pass the catheter, or be present at child-birth.

But few religious orders receive as thorough a training as this. The majority of nuns confine themselves (by the rules of their Order) to receiving doctors' orders, administering food and medicine, and maintaining order and discipline in the wards. All bed-making, moving of patients, bathing, poulticing, care of skin, etc., etc., is left for the servant nurses.

To resume, an attempt has been made in the last six or seven years by some hospital directors to improve the existing staffs of nurses, nuns, and servants. Their success has been small; first, because the nuns (with the exception of the Doria Order in Rome) refuse the instruction offered, and secondly, because the servant nurses are really only fit to be servants, too ignorant to remember or comprehend what is taught.

Nuns and servant nurses have no term of service. Religious novices and new servants learn by working with their respective seniors in the wards. The nuns remain at work so long as the Mother Superior orders, unless the doctors are dissatisfied, when the Mother Superior removes them.

The servant nurses remain as long as they like, if they give satisfaction to doctors and nuns. Some remain only a few months, other many years; but the pay is always the same; there are no higher posts to be obtained (male nurses excepted; they may become corporals at higher wages).

#### NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS OF CERTIFICATED NURSES.

The first successful attempt at organizing a training school for nurses was made in Rome in 1896. Marchesa Olga Guiccioli, whose husband was then Prefetto, consented to act as President of a small committee composed of Italian ladies and three professors. One of the latter was Superintendent of the Hospital for Women, and in favour of progress. He gave permission for pupil nurses to work in the wards of his hospital, under my guidance and instruction. Six pupils were found, and the nuns were asked by the President to co-operate with me in training them for private nurses, the Superintendent at the same time informing them that he had given his consent. The pupils attended the same set of lectures as were given to nuns and servants, but received repetition lessons from me. They passed satisfactorily, and the second year received lectures by themselves, from a house doctor, on medical and surgical pathology, and a set on gynecology, and one on nursing from myself. The pupils were examined by the professor, and the lecturers, before the members of the committee, and received certificates with a higher

or lower number of marks, according to their merits.

A similar school was started in Naples the following year, January, 1897, and has continued under the presidency of the Principessa Strongoli, and the superintendence of Miss Grace Baxter, graduate of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

In the autumn of 1897, I started a school in Florence (the Committee finding it desirable that I should leave the Roman pupils from time to time with the nuns, to enlist their sympathy with the work). For two years I continued to train pupils in Rome and Florence, dividing the year between the two schools, the nuns and the doctors directing and instructing the pupils during my absence from one or other hospital.

In the winter of 1899, the direction of the Roman School was confided to an Italian nurse, one of Miss Baxter's first graduates. She continues on exactly the same lines.

In 1900 I handed over the teaching of the Florentine pupils to another of Miss Baxter's graduates, and we hope that a third of her nurses will be called to Milan to direct a school which a purely Italian Committee is attempting to found.

So far these "Scuole per Infermiere" are quite extrinsic to hospital administration. They are efforts of philanthropy, and the funds are provided by the committees, the certificate not legalized, no official post given by the administration to either "Direttrice" or pupils; but an official permission for the existence of the school, and for partial provision of the pupils' meals is voted by the administration.

The regulations of all three schools, Roman, Neapolitan, and Florentine, are the same. Two years' training in hospital wards, medical and surgical; the usual subjects taught theoretically, by doctors, and both theoretically and practically by the Direttrice. Examinations each year by doctors and Direttrice.

On receiving certificates, the nurses either live in their own homes, and are sent by the Direttrice to private cases, or (in Naples) put by her in the hospital wards, and paid by the Committee, the hospital giving them only food.

Our nurses are sent to private cases with a printed regulation, claiming the usual consideration for them (not to eat with servants, seven hours for sleep, two for recreation), and a fee of 5 francs for non-infectious cases, 7 or 8 for infectious ones. The committee reserves the right to make special terms for long cases, etc. The certificated nurses of Rome, Naples, and Florence have slowly gained the confidence of the doctors and the public, and the demand for their services steadily increases.

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