

Psychiatry and Neurology and the Society of the White Cross.

The probationers in the hospitals do not pay for their theoretical and practical training. As a reward for the different duties, rendered by them in the wards, they receive a small salary, besides free boarding; f.100, to f.200 a year (40 to 80 dollars).

In most hospitals we find next to the Medical Superintendent a Matron, especially charged with the control of the sisters. In smaller institutions the functions of Matron and Head of the Household are united in one person, but in larger hospitals there are two dignitaries for those separate branches of the work. Although each hospital for itself is dependent upon local conditions and its own pecuniary means, the following conclusions have been accepted at a meeting, held in 1898, by the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of our principal hospitals, in consequence of an inquiry made by the Dutch Association for Sick-Nursing:—

1. The patients ought never to be confided to the care of untrained nurses, neither by day nor by night.
2. The day-duty of the head nurses and the other sisters shall not last more than 12 hours, after deducting the time, needed for the different meals.
3. To the head nurses and the other sisters, who are on duty by day, an undisturbed night's rest of at least seven hours ought to be secured.
4. The nurses, who are on duty by night, ought to have before the beginning of their period of night-watching an extra time for sleeping of over six hours, and one of over four hours, immediately after the close of that period.
5. The night nurse shall not do any duties by day.
6. Each nurse shall have every fortnight one holiday and one evening off-duty.
It is thought most desirable to give to the nurses on their working days an opportunity of passing their leisure hours outside the hospital.
7. Half an hour at least should be granted to the nurses for breakfast and supper and one hour for dinner.
8. The hospital ought to pay for each sister, who is working there, an insurance-fee for invalidity and accidents.
9. To the nurses a holiday-time of at least two weeks a year should be granted, to the head nurses one of at least three weeks.

As a matter of course a short paper like this

cannot enter into details. I will not end, however, before having mentioned very briefly three associations, which are striving, each in its own way, to further the cause of sick-nursing in Holland. And then I name, in the first place,—

I. *De Nederlandsche Bond voor Ziekenverpleging*, the Dutch Association for Sick-Nursing, with its official organ: "Het Maandblad voor Ziekenverpleging."

The Bond—for the sake of brevity I shall call it so—desires to further the cause of sick-nursing, in the broadest sense of the word, in Holland and its colonies.

It is striving to attain this aim:—

(a) By taking care of the moral, intellectual, and material interests of all those, who are devoting their lives to the nursing of the sick.

(b) By the holding of meetings, at which all matters concerning sick-nursing are to be discussed.

II. *De Wilhelmina-Vereeniging*, the Wilhelmina-Association, formed for the purpose of improving and raising mental nursing. It extends its care to all male and female nurses, who are giving themselves to that branch of nursing in Holland, and its colonies, and especially to those who are working in lunatic asylums.

The Wilhelmina-Association tries to attain its purpose:—

(a) By the finding and helping of persons, fit to be trained as mental nurses;

(b) By furthering and facilitating the thorough training of these persons;

(c) By the founding of homes, in which male and female nurses who are needing rest or who have no employment for the time being, may be boarded;

(d) By supporting male and female nurses in cases of chronic diseases, invalidity, or old age.

The Wilhelmina-Association has recently founded at Amsterdam the Wilhelmina-Home, a training-school for the examination and preparation of young women, who wish to be accepted as probationers in some lunatic asylum. One of our most eminent medical men has therefore very typically called the Wilhelmina-Home a "sieve."

The home has a four-fold purpose; it intends to be:—

1. A training-school in which young women who are wishing to devote themselves to mental nursing, may be trained as probationers, free from all expenses
2. A centre for sisters, who are out of service or weakened, where they may find the rest so urgently needed by them.
3. The Matron is bound to register the names of the sisters, in order to be able to give

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