

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

Looking back upon my own early experience, and the work undertaken by me, without knowledge of the construction of the human frame, its functions, and the hygienic laws pertaining to the maintenance of health, and my ignorance of the leading features of disease, and inability to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy excretions, with the inevitable blunders arising therefrom (in fact learning through blunders) which is not to be commended where risk to life is involved, I concluded that it was necessary to be acquainted with these matters before entering the Wards, to be instructed in the practical art of Nursing, as there is too much close study entailed in acquiring the elements of these things to admit of classes being carried on simultaneously with ward work.

Professor MacEwen, of Glasgow University, was the first to suggest to me, the possibility of an organised, uniform, method for the technical instruction of Nurses, before entering Hospital as probationers for practical work, with final examinations, after a fixed period of residence, by an outside independent body representing the State, whose Diploma should be the sole guarantee of fitness for the office of "Nurse."

It was on the New Year's morning of 1891 that Professor MacEwen, in an address to our Nurses, first made public mention of what he thought might be done in this respect; and added "Will the Glasgow Royal Infirmary take the lead?"

PROPOSED SCHEME.

In consequence of his representations to his colleagues, a scheme was drawn up by our Staff, for a series of classes for pupils who desired to become probationer nurses. This scheme was placed before our Managers, and they very heartily consented to a trial. We made a start in January, 1893, and from that time we have gone on with our pioneer work, each year strengthening our confidence in the soundness of the step taken, though keenly alive to the necessity of fuller development.

The intending pupil (unless holding a Leaving Certificate of the Scottish Education Department, or one in connection with the University) is required to attend a preliminary examination in Grammar, Composition, Spelling, and Arithmetic. Ordinary physique, and good general health indispensable. The first six weeks is spent in attending classes (specially arranged for Nurses in connection with St. Mungo's College, Glasgow) for the acquiring of the elements of Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, for which the pupil pays £2 2s., providing board and lodging at her own expense.

It would take up too long if I fully detailed to

you these classes, but will give you a brief summary.

The Anatomy course consists of not less than twelve lectures, embracing the description of the bones, joints, and chief muscles of the body, the course of the main blood vessels, and nerves, and the broad outlines of the Anatomy of the brain, and of the Thoracic, abdominal, and Pelvic Viscera, illustrated by diagrams, casts, and recent dissections. These lectures are given by Professor Henry E. Clark, of St. Mungo's College. Oral examinations on the subject matter are held throughout the course, closing with a written examination by an outsider.

This method of examination, I may say, is carried out in the other subjects, i.e., Physiology and Hygiene.

Physiology also consists of twelve lectures given by Professor John Barlow, of the same College, illustrated by diagrams, instruments, and by microscopic preparations.

The subject matter comprising a description of the blood, muscles, food, digestion of food, circulation of blood, respiration.

The skin, kidneys, nervous system, general arrangements of parts of the brain in Man and the special senses.

Hygiene is taught by Professor Hugh Galt, also of the same College, consisting of twelve lectures, profusely illustrated by models, and diagrams, and including the general principles and fundamental laws of Hygiene. The dwelling in relation to health. Air, ventilation, water. The various methods of Heating and Lighting are all very carefully considered. Hygiene for Nurses in regard to personal clothing and food, and in regard to disease are entered into, and the general principles upon which buildings, constructed for the treatment of disease should be erected.

Upon the pupil passing successfully the examinations connected with this first course, she goes on to a second course, for which the sum of £3 3s. is paid. This course comprises twenty classes or lectures by Dr. James A. Adams, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, on the nursing of cases before and after operation, according to modern ideas of surgery, in relation to the germ theory, including the operating room and its equipments.

Fractures, Dislocations, Hæmorrhage, Dressing of Wounds, instruments, the application of splints, bandaging, etc., are all fully dealt with, several classes being entirely given to practical work. Lectures and Demonstrations on medical cases are given by Dr. Lindsay Steven, Physician to the Royal Infirmary, twenty in all.

The chief diseases of the various organs are briefly described, attention being specially

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