

The American Nursing World.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

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In the paper entitled "Suggestions for the Improvement of Training-Schools for Nurses," published in the Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal* for November 21st, 1901, I pointed out what I believe to be four needs for most training-schools for nurses, namely:

1. A sound financial basis, the students helping to pay the salaries of paid instructors.
2. Nursing taught by nurses; medicine by physicians.
3. Preparation for private nursing by being taught in private families and by private nurses.
4. A better-balanced curriculum, containing liberal as well as purely technical studies.

During the past year under the able and devoted management of Miss Pauline L. Dolliver, superintendent of nurses, some advance has been made in the Massachusetts Hospital Training-School along the lines which I advocated in the paper above referred to. The most important of these I regard as the employment of three more paid instructors in addition to the two already employed. Miss Dolliver herself and her first assistant, Miss Gorman, were, until this year, the only regular paid instructors in the school. Miss Olivia Sandahl has also for some years given some instruction in massage. This year a teaching nurse, Miss Annabella McCrea, was engaged, with the understanding that her work was to be chiefly that of instruction. Two physicians, Dr. Thomas J. Manahan and Dr. George S. C. Badger, were also engaged at a salary of 300 dollars each. Each of these gentlemen gives 100 hours' instruction per year. Their teaching covers the whole of the ground heretofore covered by a large corps of unpaid instructors during the first two years of the nurses' training. Dr. Badger instructs in what may be classed as medical subjects, and Dr. Manahan in surgical subjects. More specifically, Dr. Manahan instructs in anatomy, surgical pathology and bacteriology, anaesthesia, bandaging, and the care and dressing of wounds, fractures, emergencies, &c. Dr. Badger covers the subjects of physiology, materia medica, therapeutics, diet, hygiene, observation of cases, hydrotherapy, and nursing in the specialties. Most of the instruction is given in the wards in the form of section clinics, each class being divided into sections of about ten pupils each. The nurses are examined directly by their instructors.

Through the employment of these new instructors we now carry out the idea that nursing

should be taught by nurses and medicine by physicians. We face squarely the fact that we do teach nurses medicine (although our teaching must be pretty superficial), but that we also teach them subjects not ordinarily included in medical work, and for which not physicians, but nurses of skill and experience, are the best instructors. An important advantage of this system is that the instructors become more familiar with the individual nurses, their capabilities and needs, than is possible under the old system, whereby each of a dozen or twenty physicians gave a few lectures on some special subject.

Since June 1st of last year the nurses have been given regular instruction in etherisation, and have had an opportunity to give ether a number of times.

The curriculum in the school has also been widened through the opportunity which the nurses now have for studying maternity cases in connection with the Sloane Maternity Hospital of New York and at the New York Lying-in Hospital. They see something of nursing in private families, through the reading of cases in connection with the out-patient department of the latter institution.

We have not as yet made much progress towards introducing into our curriculum any liberal studies, such as are taught in most technical schools as an offset and balance to the purely technical instruction. The only hint of a move in this direction has been the providing of nurses to read aloud to convalescent patients for an hour or so daily. I have often had occasion to regret the inability of many nurses otherwise well trained to read aloud acceptably. In many cases, this is the most important part of the nurse's duties, and in my opinion every training-school for nurses should teach it as a regular part of the curriculum.

We have not as yet attained the position when students pay or help pay the salaries of their instructors. That is a more difficult reform and one needing considerable time for its accomplishment.

The Society of Superintendents of Training Schools.

The annual meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the second week in September.

Mrs. Grette, Superintendent of Nurses at the Farrand Training School, is the President of the Society, and will be in the chair. The programme will include papers on "The Principles of Discipline," "Preparatory Work," "New Methods of Class Teaching," "Legislation for Nurses," and "Examinations and Markings."

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