

truth underlying it, which applied to nurses means this—that what they learn themselves remains with them; what we teach will be useful only as a guide. The ideal training-school, then, in my opinion is the one whose Matron, Sisters, and teachers can by example, by teaching, and encouragement so inspire their nurses being trained that they learn with eagerness and discrimination.

It is almost impossible to define a standard qualifying for registration. There are definite qualifications which a candidate should possess before presenting herself, but the actual standard will be in the minds of the examiners, and will be high or low as they make it. There should be a central examining Board for each county or State, and the examinations should be conducted by qualified practitioners of medicine, surgery, gynaecology, and ophthalmology, by a qualified nurse, and an expert in domestic economy. Before being entitled to present herself for examination, each candidate should have done three years' work in the wards of a general hospital or group of hospitals, she should have passed certain examinations in that hospital or hospitals, and possess a certificate of good conduct, technical dexterity, and general suitability for her calling; this should be signed by the Matron and instructors of her school.

### The Benefits of Affiliation.

The decision of self-governing Leagues in this country to form a Provisional Committee, through which they can take counsel together, and through which, also, they can enter into International relations with nurses in other lands, has elicited the following expression of opinion from a member of one of the Leagues concerned:—

"It seems to me that the essence of the professional spirit is the belief that all members of a profession can add something to the common stock of knowledge, and that it is their duty to share this knowledge with others, for it belongs not to them only but to their calling as a whole, and cannot rightfully be withheld.

"Holding as I do this principle in the abstract, personal observation has convinced me of its practical truth. Circumstances have brought me into contact with many nurses with a great diversity of training, and impressed upon me the belief that most schools can give points to the rest in one or more particulars, and that free interchange of experience between nurses cannot fail to add greatly to our common stock of knowledge.

"I welcome with the greatest pleasure the formation of the Provisional Committee for a National Council of Nurses. By its means we shall be able to enter into professional relations, not only with well-trained nurses in our own country, but, through affiliation with the International Council of Nurses, with those of other countries also. The needs, difficulties, and aspirations of nurses are the same all the world over. In my opinion, nothing but good can come of drawing closer the bonds which unite us."

## Nursing Education.

### GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

#### Revised Scheme of Lectures and Classes for Nurses.

The syllabus of lectures for the nursing pupils at the General Hospital, Birmingham, will be studied with interest by those who realise the importance of an efficient standard of nursing education, and the value of comparison between the systems in force at the various training-schools.

#### FIRST YEAR.

Course of Lectures by the Matron.

Eight classes each to be held by four of the Ward Sisters, each Sister taking a class of five or six nurses:—

Class 1.—Spiral bandage up leg and arm; reverse up leg and arm.

Class 2.—Finger bandage, T-bandage, elbow and heel bandage.

Class 3.—Shoulder, groin, and thumb spica.

Class 4.—Knee, breast bandage, and various scalp bandages.

Class 5.—Capelline, lower jaw, twisted bandage.

Class 6.—Poultices—linseed and charcoal. Leeches.

Class 7.—Preparation and administration of enemata—soap, turpentine, starch.

Class 8.—Hot air and vapour baths, hot and cold packs.

Four classes to be held by the Theatre Sister on instruments and on preparation of the theatre for operations.

#### SECOND YEAR.

Fifteen Lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, and Bacteriology, to be given by an Assistant Physician, an Assistant Surgeon, a Casualty Assistant Physician, or a Surgical Casualty Officer, to embrace the following subjects:—

##### Anatomy.

Skeleton, muscles, joints, ligaments, cartilages.

Heart and blood vessels. Lymphatics.

Larynx, trachea, bronchi, lungs, pleura.

Mouth, oesophagus, stomach, intestines, peritoneum.

Spleen, liver, kidneys, ureters, and bladder.

Nervous system.

##### Physiology.

Composition of air and blood. Respiration. Ventilation.

Circulation of blood. Clotting. Bleeding.

Digestion in mouth, stomach, and small and large intestine.

Heat of body and regulation of temperature. Functions of the kidney.

Female reproductive system.

Nature of bacteria and their principal varieties. Conditions of life.

Four Lectures on Obstetric and Gynaecological Nursing, to be given by the Assistant Obstetric Officer.

One Lecture on the Ear and Throat and the Nursing of Ear and Throat cases, to be given by the Aural Surgeon and Laryngologist.

One Lecture on the Eye and the Nursing of Eye cases, to be given by the Resident Surgical Officer.

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