

probationers in the hospitals, the Committee recommends a three years' training in one or two hospitals. Of those three years two at least must be passed in *one and the same* hospital. As a matter of course, the preliminary training is not included in these three years. A three years' training in two hospitals is only to be allowed in exceptional cases. These were the views of the Committee and proved also to be those of the assembly.

By this three years' training let me say, *en parenthèse*, that a training of three years is not at all a novelty, but has been in practice already for many years in Holland; the probationers are to be fully prepared for their task as efficient nurses—practically in the wards, theoretically by the following of a complete course of lectures. The hospital in which such general training is undertaken must offer ample opportunity for it; as training-schools, such as ophthalmic, lying-in, children's hospitals and lunatic asylums are not to be placed on a par with the general hospitals where all kinds of diseases are treated. The latter give a general training, the former only in special branches.

The curriculum includes elementary anatomy and physiology; hygiene; the nursing of medical, surgical and obstetric cases; the art of dressing wounds; some knowledge of ordinary surgical instruments.

Great stress has been laid by the Committee on the fact that the number of lecturers must not be too large. In our greater hospitals the course of training must be given by the medical superintendent, the surgeon and the Matron; in the smaller ones by the medical men attached to them and by the Matron, or, if such a dignitary is lacking, by the head nurse.

The proposals of the Committee concerning the way in which the examinations are to be arranged and regulated by the Bond, while we are waiting for State Registration, called forth a very animated discussion.

The proposals of the Committee are as follows:—

1. Only *one* certificate for general sick-nursing is to be given. The arrangements as to the award of special diplomas, such as for the nursing of obstetric cases, insane patients, &c., are to be postponed.

2. A uniform system of nursing education is most desirable, as well as uniformity in the requirements demanded from the candidates by the examining boards.

3. Those who pass the Bond's examination must be at least twenty-three years of age, and not more than forty-five. (This last recommendation was changed—by the assembly—into an unlimited maximum age.)

4. The training must be a continuous one; it must not be interrupted for more than three months, and only for good reasons, approved by the examining board. (This was modified by amendment as follows:—As a rule, the training must be a continuous one, not to be interrupted but for reasons that are to be judged by the examining board.)

5. The Dutch Nursing Association (the Bond) shall appoint examining boards in different parts of our country. Those boards will be entitled to certificate nurses. The examining boards at present in existence, such as those of the White Cross, the Hague Committee, &c., shall be taken in consideration.

6. The Dutch Nursing Association, in order to be able to define for the whole country the precise curriculum through which every woman must pass before she can be certificated, and the method of examination, shall convene a meeting of all the chairmen and secretaries of the now existing examining boards with

the Committee that is to be appointed for the fulfilment of the above-named task.

The Commission had a brilliant success with its report, nearly all the conclusions having been accepted by the general meeting. It was unanimously reported by the assembly to a permanent Committee, that will set to work to lay down a scheme of all educational matters affecting nurses; of the curriculum through which every probationer must pass before she can obtain a diploma for sick nursing; the period of her training; the subjects of her education, &c. This permanent Committee will proceed on the line of the conclusions laid down in the report. When projecting this scheme the Committee will take advice with the Head Council of the Bond.

The Head Council of the Bond has already stated its opinion about this matter.

It suggests the appointment (by the general meeting or by the Head Council) of a Head Committee, consisting of at least five members; one of them may be a male or female nurse, certificated in Holland.

It would be the duty of this Head Committee to appoint the different examining boards, and to grant to the candidates who have passed the examination and made the solemn promise of secrecy concerning all matters that come to their knowledge when fulfilling their professional duties, a diploma and a numbered Bond's badge in free loan.

The Head Council should publish the names of the certificated nurses in the organ of the Bond, and also enter them in a register.

The examining boards should be constituted of three or more members, one or more of them being the lecturers of the concerned candidates, the others not connected in any way with the hospital in which the candidates have been working during the last year of their period of training. Of these latter members one may be a nurse certificated in Holland.

No nurse would be allowed to offer herself for examination until she produced a schedule, duly signed by the medical superintendent of the hospital in which she has received her training, or by one of the head lecturers, testifying as to her general good conduct, her practical proficiency, and her having attended the regulation number of lectures and demonstrations on each subject of the curriculum.

Such is in broad outline the suggested scheme of the Head Council of the Bond.

The permanent Committee for the education and examination of nurses, appointed at the latest annual meeting, has to work this scheme in connection with the conclusions laid down in the report of the Commission for the training and examination of male and female nurses.

The Bond intends to take the place of Government in this matter as long as we have no State Registration for nurses, for which the time is not deemed ripe at present.

When will time be ripe for it? HOLLANDIA.

The above letter will be of interest to our readers as showing the phase through which Dutch nurses are passing. It must be remembered in relation to Registration that the nurses themselves have not, apparently, had much opportunity of expressing their collective views on the matter. The Committee which reported on the question consisted of four medical men and two Matrons.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)