

## Nursing in Holland.\*

By Miss L. KRUYSSSE,

*Matron of the Wilhelmina Hospital, Amsterdam.*

It is a great honour to me to represent the Amsterdam Wilhelmina Hospital in this gathering, where the curriculum for the training of nurses in different countries will be discussed.

It will be of great interest to every one of us to compare notes and to hear different opinions upon the subject.

In order to give a proper idea of the training of our nurses, I must give in rough outline the plan of our hospital. It is built in pavilions—one for male, one for female patients.

Then comes the pavilion for mental patients, with a male and female side. Lastly, the infectious blocks and the lying-in hospital (*Vrouwen Kliniek*), where paying patients are also received.

On an average we have 700 patients, 190 nurses and probationers, 18 male nurses, and 10 head nurses (including the night superintendent).

The number of nurses in the wards corresponds to the wants of the patients.

In the medical wards we have nine nurses for thirty-eight patients, two night nurses included.

In the surgical wards there are six nurses for thirty patients, one night nurse included.

In the children's wards ten or eleven nurses are on duty for forty or fifty patients, two night nurses included.

The pavilions first mentioned contain four big wards, a small ward, an operating-room, and two isolation rooms.

The wards on the ground floor, one medical and one surgical ward, besides the operating-room, are supervised by the head nurse, while each ward, again, is in charge of a certificated or first nurse and her assistant.

The wards on the first floor, one for venereal diseases and one for children, with a small one for children upstairs, are also under the supervision of a head nurse, and each in charge of a certificated or first nurse. In the ward for venereal diseases male nurses also work.

On the male side of the mental department there are thirteen nurses and ten male nurses for ninety patients. On the female side there are from twenty-five to twenty-six nurses on duty for 112 patients. The male and female side are each in charge of a head nurse.

In the infectious blocks from twenty-five to thirty nurses work in charge of the head nurse, while in each ward is placed a certificated or first nurse.

The lying-in hospital is divided into three departments—one for lying-in patients, one for gynecological, and one for paying patients.

From thirty-eight to forty certificated nurses are on duty there, besides two head nurses.

Most of them are trained in the Wilhelmina Hospital; some of them come from outside and stay for a year.

The head nurses are all trained in the Wilhelmina Hospital.

We have women of all denominations. Pupils entering the hospital must be twenty years of age at

\* Presented to the International Council of Nurses, Berlin.

least; they must be of good character, of sound health, and well educated.

They come on a month's trial, but this time of probation is prolonged for two or three months if necessary. When appointed they are bound for three years.

During the first fortnight they are on duty for ten hours, full duty being eleven hours.

All nurses and probationers have one whole day off and one evening every week alternately.

Probationers are allowed to go out after duty once a week; certificated nurses are free to go after duty.

All have leave to go home the evening before, when they have the day off.

Nurses and probationers have three weeks' holidays, head nurses four weeks'.

Our holidays run from May till November, and in May we get as many nurses in addition to our usual number as go on holiday.

This system is working very well. We are never short now, and the new probationers have the advantage of becoming accustomed to the ward work before the lectures begin in November.

They do not lose any time by coming in May, as the examination can be passed twice a year.

When the holidays are over we have to decrease our number, so that we have but a few or no vacancies in November.

This year, for the first time, we received some new probationers on April 1st in order to give them a preliminary training in the wards.

The lectures are begun in November. The junior probationers get a set of lectures from the surgeon on the principles of anatomy, physiology, surgical nursing, first aid and ambulance work.

Dr. Kuiper, the Medical Superintendent, teaches the senior probationers in their second and third years.

He gives them a course of lectures in general nursing, infectious diseases, foods, and hygiene, besides lectures on different organs and their nursing, as eyes, ears, throat, nose, &c.

At the end of the third year, when the lectures are finished, repetition classes are held by both gentlemen before the nurses go in for examination.

The nurses of the first, second, and third year get a set of lectures from me on general nursing and nursing ethics.

The examination is passed before a committee of members of the Society of the White Cross.

The examiners are all medical men, and most of them are heads of different training-schools.

The examination lasts three-quarters of an hour, and the questions are made as practical as possible, giving the candidate an opportunity to show that she or he has a clear understanding of the human body and its ailments, and what she or he has to do or not to do in time of need.

As soon as the examination has been passed, the nurses are obliged to take a vow of secrecy.

The union of the White Cross by which the nurses and male nurses are examined dates from 1879, when it gave the first certificate for sick nursing in our country.

Four out of the five large hospitals in Amsterdam are associated with the White Cross, while the fifth gives its own certificate. Some other hospitals in other cities give also their own certificates, while different unions have been established since, all giving their own certificates.

Moreover, any nurse who has had a three years'

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)