

(The Committee has purposely avoided the suggestion of a minimum age for admission. It need, however, not be feared that the nursing-market may be overcrowded with a large supply of too young private nurse, as no candidate under the age of twenty-three years may pass the nursing examination.)

*The Period of Instruction.*—The period of instruction has to be a *continuous* one during *three full years* in *one general hospital*.

In exceptional cases left to the judgment of the boards of examiners, the candidates for the examination may be trained in *two hospitals*, when at least *two full years* have been spent in one and the same hospital.

(The committee suggests a continuous training of three full years in the same hospital, in order to avoid an undesired mutation among the nursing forces, and to promote in this way the wished-for stability. Yet there may be sound reasons for a pupil-nurse to leave the hospital in which she had hitherto received her training. In that case it is left to the decision of the Board of Examiners whether the pupil's motives for change of hospital are good or not.)

By a *general hospital* is meant a hospital where sufferers from all kinds of diseases are nursed in a sufficient number to guarantee a thorough training in sick-nursing.

Placed on a par with a general hospital is a *children's hospital*, containing a sufficient number of patients; the latter to be judged by the "Bond's Board," of which I shall tell you more when continuing this letter.

A period of instruction of two full years in an *ophthalmic hospital* or some other special clinic—on the understanding that also a full course in general nursing has been taken—is equal to a period of instruction of one year in a general hospital.

A period of instruction of two full years in a *lunatic asylum* is placed on a par with that of one year in a general hospital, the taking of a full course in general sick-nursing being a strict condition.

In all the above-named cases a course of training of two full years in *one general hospital* must follow.)

*Curriculum.*—The curriculum includes:—(a) elementary anatomy, physiology, and hygiene; (b) general and special nursing, both medical and surgical; (c) first aid in emergency cases; (d) some knowledge of surgical instruments; (e) bandages and the dressing of wounds.

(*Obstetric nursing* and the *nursing of new-born infants* have been omitted from the list of compulsory branches of tuition in order to avoid in some way the chance that the certificated nurses may assume the right of presenting themselves as obstetric nurses, an evil that cannot be yet wholly prevented with the present state of things.)

*Examination.*—Candidates applying for admission to the examination in order to get the *Bond's* diploma for general sick nursing must deliver:—

1. A certificate of birth or such like document, from which is proved that the candidate is not less than twenty-three years of age.

2. A testimony of good moral conduct.

3. A certificate that the candidate has set herself with zeal and devotion to the nursing of sick persons, and had sufficient experience in this matter, and also that she possesses all the physical and moral qualities required for that task.

4. A testimony of the candidate's having taken a full course in general sick nursing.

5. A certificate that the candidate has been working for the time of three full years continuously in *one general hospital*. When the candidate has received her training in two hospitals, or partly in some special hospital or a lunatic asylum, she has to give the testimonials required for those cases (see under period of instruction).

The testimonies mentioned, under headings 2, 3, 4 and 5, must bear the signatures of the Medical Superintendent and the Matron of the hospital where the candidate has been trained.

When such is thought necessary for some reason or other, the Board of Examiners is entitled to make further inquiry as to the moral character of the candidate, and to refuse to let her pass the examination when the results of that inquiry prove to be unsatisfactory, in which case the candidate may appeal to the Bond's Board.

6. A sum of five florins (8s. 4d.) to be handed to the Chairman of the Examiners' Board.

*Examination.*—The Board will examine (oral examination) upon the subjects already mentioned when speaking of the curriculum.

As a general rule the examination will not last more than one hour.

After having passed successfully the examination the candidate has to take *the vow of secrecy*.

*Boards of Examiners.*—If possible the teachers of the candidates must be appointed as members of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners is fully entitled to elect besides them some other members. The *Bond's Board* has to send a delegate.

*The Bond's Board.*—The Bond's Board for the training and examination of male and female nurses is a permanent advising body, bringing into mutual contact the different Examiners' Boards, and for that reason being the fit authority to suggest future development, when time is ripe, and to raise the standard of nursing, let us hope from year to year. It is to give regularly an annual report to the Head Council of the "Bond," and to ascertain that the rules and conditions of the different Examiners' Boards that have joined the "Bond" are corresponding with the above-named conditions put by the Bond.

Only those Boards of Examiners that are willing to submit to these conditions are entitled to distribute certificates for nursing, acknowledged and stamped by the "Bond." The "Dutch Association for Sick-Nursing," for the sake of brevity called by me "the Bond," does not only distribute diplomas for *general sick-nursing*, but also for *obstetric nursing*, the *nursing of the insane*, and the *nursing of ophthalmic patients*.

No nurse shall be certificated for any special branch of nursing when not possessing the diploma for general nursing.

What will be the fate of this scheme, projected by the Committee, appointed to that task?

Will these recommendations be adopted or rejected?

The next annual meeting of the "Bond" on May 24th will give answer to this question.

Good breeding and a general intellectual development are thought quite rightly indispensable qualities in a nurse. Experience, however, proves but too often that not nearly all candidate nurses are equipped with them—alas! not even all certificated nurses, at least here in Holland. How it is in this respect with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)