

requisite for efficiency Dr. Biernacki discusses the long and short systems. The *long system* takes two years. The nurse comes as a probationer without previous training. This system is in force at Plaistow Hospital, where the probationers receive systematic instruction and have to pass four examinations, the last being conducted by an independent examiner appointed by the committee. These probationers are taken at an age below that at which general training is commenced so that they may be passed on to general hospitals, if they prove suitable, at the end of their fever training. The *short system* takes six months. This also is practised at Plaistow Hospital. The course being so short special conditions are necessary to make it effective. The hospital must be large, with a variety of diseases and sufficient acute cases. In connection with this course nurses are taken from a general hospital, during their term of training, and the result of their examination and a report of their record in the wards are sent to the general hospital matron when they leave. A few nurses who have finished their general training are also taken. They receive a printed testimonial as a proof of their competence to nurse fever cases.

4. While holding that it would be best that *every* registered nurse should be fever trained, Dr. Biernacki considers this impracticable on the ground of insufficient vacancies.

5. He considers that the nurses who *have gained a general diploma and these only* should be admitted to an examination for a supplementary diploma in fever nursing if they have received training in a recognised fever hospital for two years prior to their general training, or for six months during the last year of their general training or at some later time. This diploma would be a guarantee of proficiency in fever nursing.

The position of the fever nurse would not, Dr. Biernacki points out, be secured by the general diploma alone. The effect of accepting this as a hall mark of genuine training would be to put nurses with special fever training on the same footing as those who had only a theoretical knowledge of fever work.

For fever nurses without general training Dr. Biernacki considers recognition under

state registration impossible. Though their work is often of a high standard their prospects are very limited, as they cannot aspire to the higher posts in fever hospitals, and there are strong reasons against their taking up private nursing. He holds that they should be encouraged to go on to general training and so become eligible for the general and supplementary diplomas.

To obtain recognition on the above lines, Dr. Biernacki thinks combined action on the part of fever nurses is required, and that there are other reasons why they should form an association.

We commend Dr. Biernacki's pamphlet to all who are interested in the question of State Registration of Nurses and the best methods of dealing with the many interests involved. It is certain that to regard a general diploma, implying no practical acquaintance with fever nursing, as a guarantee of efficiency in this branch would be most prejudicial to the interests of patients suffering from infectious diseases. The suggestion of a special diploma seems a reasonable one, though we should prefer to call it a certificate. It might be attached to the general diploma in the same way that the College of Preceptors attaches to its general certificate a second one detailing the branch or branches of knowledge in which candidates for its examination have specially distinguished themselves.

### The Four Years Term of Training.

At a court of governors held at the Middlesex Hospital, last week, it was announced that the term of training for nurses has been extended from three to four years, and will include in future a period spent at the convalescent home to acquire knowledge of the care of convalescents. We hope now so many of the hospitals compel their probationers to contract to give four years' service, that they will soon see their way to organising a curriculum of training which will include a term of obstetric and also of fever nursing. Nurses in these days cannot be considered "thoroughly trained" unless they possess a practical knowledge of obstetric and infectious nursing, and if the training-schools demand a four years' contract of work from their pupils, it is only fair they should provide the course of training which makes them completely efficient.

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