

arm, supposing you had not at hand any sterilised dressings?

5. Give the strength of the different antiseptic solutions.

6. Demonstrate the syringing of an ear.

Midwifery.

7. How would you conduct a normal labour, the doctor not arriving in time?

8. How would you recognise a breech presentation?

9. In assisting the doctor, what is the nurse expected to do, after the delivery of the placenta?

10. How would you dress the umbilical cord?

11. Demonstrate artificial respiration—Sylvester's.

It is only of late years that lay nursing has been introduced in the female wards of this hospital, and it is being done very gradually. The religious nursing order, in residence, being "Notre Dame de Bon Secours," no midwifery nor gynaecological nursing can be done by the Sisters. This necessitates a tremendous amount of extra work for the Medical Superintendent and his Assistant, and, as the six probationers do not "live in," and are all on day duty, the resident medical officer has to get up at night and do any female catheterisation, etc., necessary, and conduct the night labours. The hospital contains 250 beds, and there are, invariably, many extra patients on the floor, sandwiched between the different beds. The male wards are staffed by warders, who, on the completion of their training, go to the country hospitals, or are engaged as "Infirmiers" for the Sugar Estate Hospitals (each estate must have its hospital and dispensary for the care of the sick coolies).

These warders and probationer nurses receive from the Medical Superintendent, and his Assistant, the same lectures, with the exception of midwifery.

Last year, the Colonial Nursing Association was approached by the Mauritius Health Department, with the result that its two nurses gave a course of practical lessons in nursing to the probationers.

These lessons were attended also by the lay nurses working in the country hospitals, and, if the subject did not interfere with the "vows," the Sisters attended also, and formed a very appreciative class.

Probationers have to pass an educational test, followed by three months' trial, before being confirmed in their appointments. The training is for two years. Paragraph 28 of the rules reads: "Candidates failing to qualify within 2½ years shall be called upon to leave the Institution." Several nursing scholarships of 20 rupees (£1 6s. 8d) per month, are granted

by Government, as an inducement for women to enter hospital for training.

Since I first visited the Civil Hospital, 2½ years ago, the appearance of the nursing staff has become more nurse-like. The probationers now wear caps (modified "Sister Dora" minus strings) and large white overalls. The Sisters, occupied in the wards, also wear the latter, and white head gear replaces the usual black veil. A quiet talk, after one of the lessons, resulted in the removal of one or two pairs of ear-rings, and a plethora of tawdry brooches.

The Sisters, having no idea of discipline or hospital etiquette, cannot teach the probationers the hundred and one things only a woman can teach women, and one misses, in the probationers, the "to attention" attitude in the presence of the medical officers.

But, to return to our text, I think you will agree with me that the above examination paper, at the end of two years' training, is exceedingly comprehensive, and the results reflect great credit on, and must have entailed much additional work to, an already over-worked medical staff.

ISABEL H. PENNIE.

The Queen's Gifts to Sick Soldiers.

An interested crowd has this week been surrounding a window in the establishment of Messrs. J. Shoolbred, Tottenham Court Road, W., where the national colours are conspicuously displayed as an appropriate background for an exhibition of the gifts of her Majesty the Queen to the military hospitals in the United Kingdom.

The sum of £1,000, a portion of the money realised by the Queen's Christmas Gift-book, has been spent on these comforts for sick soldiers.

Some of the most noticeable of the Queen's gifts are the Guards' Rugs, warm and attractive blankets in alternate stripes of dark blue and crimson, the bed tables which slip over the beds, and the bed rests, of iron enamelled white, comfortably curved, with projections for keeping the pillows in place. Then there are invalid couches, adjustable chairs, foot-stools, hot water plates, and cosy grey flannel dressing gowns, trimmed with red braid for convalescents; small bedside tables, and other comforts formerly unknown to the sick soldier, and last, but not least, must be mentioned the delightful down cushions, bearing the words: "The gift of her Majesty the Queen." No one but a sick person knows the comfort of a soft and well made cushion which can be tucked into uncomfortable cavities and angles.

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