

from a training school for nurses connected with a hospital or sanatorium giving a course of at least two years and registered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, as maintaining in this and other respects proper standards, all of which shall be determined by the said Regents. Registration of the nurse is the ultimate end, but registration of the school is essential to gain that end, and the regulations controlling the Registration are left to the Regents. Through direct personal inspection the conditions of the school are ascertained. The Inspector visits the school, meets the Superintendent, and discusses the complete course of training, both practical and theoretical, to the smallest detail, the main factors being the daily average of patients, number of students enrolled by classes, the length of course, number of departments for practical experience and time spent in each, subjects taught by theory, number of lessons in each, character of instruction and qualification of instructors, time spent in other institutions for special courses, time on and off duty day and night, length of vacation, hours of class and lecture each week, amount of money received in monthly allowances, equipment of class room, nursing library provided, condition of home, quality of food.

In bringing up all points in a systematic way the strong side and weak side are both brought out, and by comparing them with the standards of the law and regulations of the Education Department, the opportunity is offered for suggestions for improvements. Then a trip is made through the hospital and home. It is this careful inspection that tells how carefully supervised the work is. The details of service will show to an experienced eye what kind of nursing is being done better than any other one thing. A report of this inspection is fully written up and passed into the Chief of the Inspection Division. If the report shows that the work is satisfactory, it is placed on file for future reference, but if it shows that the requirements have not been established or maintained, a letter is written to the officers of the school calling attention to the facts as stated, asking them to correct defects, and suggesting methods of so doing.

This is the routine of inspection, and answers every purpose in the majority of schools. There are, of course, some schools that are particularly poor, and many visits are necessary. It is sometimes difficult to make the authorities acknowledge the defects; it requires patience, perseverance, and tact to do this, but correcting faults is not so hard when the desire to do so has once been manifested.

The policy of the Education Department is

not destructive but constructive. Every improvement is commended; encouragement given and assistance rendered whenever possible. The requirements of the Statute and regulations of the Regents are plain, sensible, and in no respect unreasonable. A simple statement of them appeals to the commonsense of those in authority in the management of the school. There is no argument against them by people interested in fair and just treatment of students and patients.

The educational requirement was approached with more apprehension than any other one point, but the co-operation of the Superintendents and the Education Department in a steadily increasing demand for better qualified women has resulted in practically overcoming the difficulty. Part of it certainly is due to improved conditions in the schools. The instruction is more thorough, the supervision more constant, and better living conditions are made possible. This is what the supervision has done literally; it is something tangible even in so short a time.

As a direct result of inspection and suggestion by the Educational Department homes have been renovated, enlarged, or new buildings erected, as was found necessary. Nurses qualified to teach have been employed as instructors of both practical and theoretical work; more graduate head nurses and supervisors have been employed to oversee the work of the students, and make sure that the patients were receiving every possible care. Whatever tends to improve the course of training reflects directly on the care of the patient, and this builds up the reputation of the institution.

Schools thus supervised, being a part of the University system, recommend their students to the Regents' examination, which is the final step in the course of training; then they are granted the diploma by the school and Registration certificate by the Education Department, entitling them to practice as Registered nurses.

The law protects the use of the letters R. N. to signify the compliance of nurses to State regulations. Due credit for this great achievement in raising the standard of nursing must be given the nurses themselves. It was through their labours and self-sacrifice that, in face of much difficulty, proper recognition has been granted the nursing profession. The burden of managing nursing affairs is no longer borne alone by nurses, nor have they been entirely assumed by the State, but by mutual consent for the purpose of greater benefit and progress the two forces combined and work as one.

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