

The Central Preparatory Course for Nurses at Teachers' College, New York.

Now that several hospitals in this country have instituted a preliminary course of training for their nurses, it is most interesting to study the central one year's preparatory course offered by the Department of Hospital Economy at Teachers' College, New York, designed to prepare students for admission to training schools for nurses, a plan advocated by this Journal many years ago, to meet the needs of the smaller hospitals, which have neither sufficient new pupils to form a class, nor funds to maintain it.

Miss Nutting tells us in the *American Journal of Nursing* that arrangements have been made with the training schools of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals whereby the students who complete successfully the courses of study outlined will be admitted for two years of training and instruction in the care of the sick in the wards and other departments of the hospitals. Bellevue is a large municipal hospital with over a thousand beds, offering exceptional opportunities for practical instruction in the following services: medical, surgical, obstetrical, infants and children. The course is a further extension of the idea of preliminary training such as is now found in some of the leading training schools of the country, and its purpose is to give the student a more thorough grounding in the sciences underlying the art of nursing than can ordinarily be obtained in the hospital training school. It also aims to familiarise the student with practical procedures in general use in nursing. The student is thus prepared to benefit more promptly and fully by the opportunities which the hospital offers, and to bring a more intelligent effort to bear upon the problems presented by the patient. The students must, however, in all instances meet the physical and other tests required by the training schools.

The course is under the immediate control and direction of nurses.

The outline as at present arranged is given below, and should there be a sufficient demand for a training which brings the first year of a nurse's training (a period which must necessarily include a good deal of theoretical work) into the college, rather than the hospital, arrangements will undoubtedly be made to extend the relationship to other hospitals and to relieve them of theoretical courses, which are usually provided with considerable difficulty and expense and under conditions which seldom admit of proper study.

PREPARATORY COURSE FOR NURSING.

General and Educational Psychology.—This is a general course in psychology, with special reference to dynamic psychology and the mental processes important to intellect and character.

Elementary Anatomy and Physiology.—This is an introductory course in human anatomy and physiology, with comparative study of general anatomy and physiology. It furnishes a general ground-work in biological science.

Applied Bacteriology.—This course will deal with bacteria, moulds, yeasts, and other micro-organisms, selecting for most attention the forms which affect our every-day life.

First Principles of Chemistry.—This is a course for beginners which gives special attention to the elements of chemistry as related to foods and other matters of household economy.

Personal Hygiene.—The course considers the human body as an organic machine, and presents personal hygiene as the study of the means of preserving and improving the health and efficiency of the human mechanism.

Elementary Materia Medica and Therapeutics.—This course includes a discussion of drugs, their sources, forms, and physiological and toxic effects, the handling of drugs, their accurate weighing and measuring, their preparation, proper methods of administration and dosage, poisons and antidotes.

Food Production.—The lectures of this course describe the preparation of the various staple foods, from the raw state to the finished product in marketable forms, and include a discussion of the composition, nutritive value, and cost of the available food materials.

Food Preparation.—The purpose of this course is to place food preparation on a scientific basis, and to systematise methods of work. The course deals with the preparation of food materials based on a knowledge of their composition and the chemical changes effected by heat and moisture, and indicates what cooking processes give best results in retaining nutritive principles in most digestible form.

Cookery for Invalids.—This course gives special attention to the food and diet of the sick and invalids. Instruction and laboratory practice are included.

Housewifery.—This course furnishes instruction and practical work in the care, cleaning, and order of the household. The cleansing processes, materials, and appliances are considered and practice is provided.

Principles of Nursing.—This course deals with the principles of science which are fundamental to the art of nursing, the practical procedures of the sick room, and the appliances of nursing.

Social Economy.—There are various courses under this heading treating of social and industrial problems, of the causes of poverty and sickness, and of the various institutions for their prevention and relief.

The *Montreal Star* has offered £20,000 to the typhoid fund if it becomes necessary for the citizens to take up the question after the election of the new Council on February 1st.

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