

Princess Christian dedicated to her a small text book for the study of mental and sick nursing, for which an introduction was kindly written by Sir William Collins, whose services in Parliament and in educational circles are so highly and widely appreciated.

A certificate is granted by this Association after examination and upon the completion of a three years' curriculum in the asylum, and the only regret felt about the period of study is that hospitals do not as yet reciprocate the action of the Association in considering a year spent in a recognised asylum to be the equivalent of a year in a recognised hospital. Already a number of nurses of both sexes hold this certificate for proficiency in mental nursing, and a Departmental Committee has recommended the inclusion of their names in any Register which Parliament may sanction for the protection of hospital nurses. At the Claybury Asylum over 1,100 nurses and attendants have received training, of whom about 400 hold the Medico-Psychological Certificate, and it is a satisfaction to know that the institution at Claybury is widely acknowledged as an active training school. Those who were its alumnae hold the important posts of Matron in no less than seven public institutions for the insane, of which five are in the County of London.

It may not be out of place to sketch briefly the scheme for training arranged by the Medico-Psychological Association. Every nurse (male and female) must be trained in a recognised institution for the insane for not less than 12 months before she is permitted to present herself for the primary examination, and she must have attended a course of twelve lectures with demonstrations on "First Aid," bandaging, fractures, dislocations, asphyxia, poisons and antidotes, emergencies, and be qualified for general attendance upon the insane. A knowledge of bodily structure and functions is requisite, and candidates must qualify in elementary anatomy, physiology, general hygiene, and first aid. The final examination can be taken after the completion of three years' service in one or two recognised institutions for the care of the insane, and the candidate must have attended systematic lectures and demonstrations by the medical staff for two years after the primary examination. Clinical demonstrations in the wards must have been attended, so as to acquire a knowledge of the general features and varieties of mental disorders and of the ordinary requirements of sick nursing. Candidates must show a competent knowledge of the symptoms and bodily disorders, of sick nursing and hygiene, and of mental diseases and mental nursing. Both the

examinations are written and oral, and a good character is essential to obtaining the certificate.

Perhaps I may be permitted to conclude with the following extract from my report to the Claybury Committee of the London County Council:—"Didactic instruction in the form of lectures and demonstrations to the staff is given by myself and medical colleagues. The fact that it is generally known that members of the medical staff of this asylum devote themselves to preparing attendants and nurses for the higher qualifying certificates—which enable the holders to obtain better executive positions in other institutions as well as in private nursing—help us to get a more ambitious and a better class of staff. The work of an asylum nurse is both arduous and constant. The absence of the wider field of usefulness, implied in private nursing, would deter many of the more able, refined, and educated, from applying, and why should those qualities, which are deemed necessary standards for general hospitals, be denied to institutions for treating the mind? Desirable candidates for the position of asylum nurses—male and female—are not too many, and a better class of applicants means a higher moral and intellectual standard, which must react upon the patients themselves, as they receive not only custodial but also curative care, and are by day and night under their care. My experience of over a quarter of a century, and my long and special interest in this question, convince me that efficient nurses are a substantial auxiliary and a helpful element in the treatment of insanity. Training improves the tact of the person trained, it increases skill, and gives greater accuracy to reports through improved observation of symptoms. Training also is a broadening and elevating effect upon attendants, and it develops and confirms what is best and strongest in a woman's nature—viz., tenderness and care for others."

THE KING AND QUEEN AT HASLAR.

On Saturday last the King and Queen visited Haslar Hospital, where they were received by Inspector-General F. D. Gimlette, and went round all the wards. Their visit gave great pleasure to the patients, and the kind words spoken, and sympathy shown by the Queen to many of them were greatly appreciated. The King also talked for some time with a seaman who recently had a leg amputated, and with one of the crew of the Royal Yacht. Haslar Hospital contains beds for 1,200 officers and men, but, if necessary, these can be considerably augmented.

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