

Our Prize Competition.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss M. Wiles, Holloway Road, N., for her article printed below on the subject:

DESCRIBE A CURRICULUM WHICH WOULD QUALIFY A SISTER TO BECOME AN EFFICIENT TEACHER OF PRACTICAL NURSING IN THE WARDS.

To become an efficient teacher of practical nursing in the wards a Sister should have had, before entering hospital, a good general education and a refined and high-principled upbringing, and be equipped for her career with a sense of justice and order, a willingness to obey, consideration for others, and the power of self-control.

Three years' training in a good general hospital is, of course, essential, and during that time she should learn and become efficient and skilful in the following subjects:—

1. How to wash, move, and lift sick people, the care of the back, mouth, etc. How to make beds for ordinary patients, and for those requiring any special arrangements of the pillows or bedclothes.

2. How to apply splints, bandages, extensions, etc., dress wounds, apply leeches, poultices, and any known form of medical or surgical application, and be able to explain why they are applied and the benefits that should be derived therefrom.

3. How to ventilate the ward and how to maintain the same in a state of absolute cleanliness. How to scrub, dust, clean brasses, etc. A Sister should clearly understand the reasons and importance of cleanliness, and be able to explain them with intelligence and force.

4. Surgical cleanliness, how to sterilize and disinfect, how to prepare patients for operation; she should understand the reason for each different process and be able to explain the difference between aseptic and antiseptic surgery.

5. How to give medicines and hypodermic injections. The Sister must understand all methods of artificial feeding and the value and properties of food.

6. A knowledge of drugs and the effects produced, how to make lotions, and the action, either harmful or beneficial, of those in use.

7. A knowledge of diseases, ability to explain causes, symptoms, changes in the pulse, temperature, and respiration, and the approaching signs of death; also how to keep charts and write and give reports.

8. The reverent care of the body after death.

9. What to do in all cases of emergency; how to keep her own presence of mind and obtain the most help from her subordinates without exciting them unduly.

10. How to exercise intelligent economy and have a general knowledge of the cost of dressings, laundry, electric light, gas, etc.

11. The etiquette of hospital, always maintaining her own dignity, rendering obedience and respect to her superiors in position, and commanding it naturally from her nurses and probationers.

Finally, she should not attempt to teach any subject that she does not thoroughly understand herself.

We highly commend the papers of Miss Elder, Miss G. Roberts, Miss M. Telfer, Miss P. Saunders, Miss J. Robinson.

Although many of the papers are excellent no one has mentioned the essential fact that a nurse, when she has obtained her certificate, should have special training in the art of teaching, and give a practical demonstration of her ability to teach a class of probationers by giving a model lesson in the presence of examiners before she is eligible for promotion to a Sister's post. It does not follow that because a woman is a good nurse herself she has the faculty of imparting knowledge to others, and unless a Sister is "apt to teach" the standard of training in her ward suffers.

Miss J. Robinson writes that to be an efficient teacher a Sister must be clear headed and be able not only to show how things should be done, but to explain the reason why a given method is adopted. She must be approachable, or probationers will be afraid to bring their difficulties to her.

Miss G. Roberts thinks that the first qualifications in a teacher are justice and patience. It is a pleasure to teach a quick, bright, pupil who quickly grasps what she is taught. The Sister, however, must realise that it is her duty to get the best out of all her pupils, that they all have equal claims upon her, and that she should give more time rather than less to her less interesting pupils who conscientiously desire to learn their work thoroughly.

Miss P. Saunders says that to be an efficient teacher one must have a love of teaching, a clear mind which sees plainly the points which it is trying to impress upon the pupils, and an attractive method of imparting knowledge. The teacher must also keep her mind fresh by constantly adding to her own knowledge, or she will never be able to interest her pupils and inspire them with enthusiasm.

QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK.

What are the usual causes of hypodermic abscesses?

Rules for competing in this competition will be found on page xii.

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