

The Local Government Board of Scotland and Fever Nurses.

A Memorandum on the Examination and Certification of Trained Fever Nurses has been issued under date of June 30th, 1911, by the Local Government Board of Scotland and forwarded with a covering Circular to the medical officers of health in Scotland for submission to the Local Authorities:—

The Memorandum provides:—

1. No nurse shall be engaged as a probationer whose age is under eighteen or over thirty-five years.

2. No probationer shall be engaged unless she has produced evidence (1) that she is of good character; (2) that her health is good; and (3) that she has received a fair general education. The medical officer and the matron will satisfy themselves as to the candidate's health and character. In order to test the candidate's education, the Local Government Board will from time to time, as required, send an officer to a convenient centre to examine applicants in the following subjects:—(a) Spelling. (b) Handwriting, to be judged from written papers. (c) English, to be tested by ability to write a short essay. (d) Arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions, weights and measures, and bills of parcels. (Note.—Candidates possessing an intermediate or a leaving certificate will be exempted from this examination.) No fee will be charged for this examination. The Board arrange the time and place of these examinations, having special regard to the convenience of the candidates. As a rule, an examination will be held on the first Tuesday of each quarter. After examining the papers, the Board intimate the names of the candidates who have passed the examination. A probationer should not be formally engaged until she has had a three months' trial of the work and has satisfied the matron and the medical officer that she is in every way fitted for the profession of nurse.

3. A nurse's training shall extend over a period of not less than three years, including the period of probation. During that time she will be required to attend regularly lectures and demonstrations by the medical staff of the hospital. There shall be regular systematic instruction in each week during six months of the year. The lecturer shall prescribe book-work to accompany and supplement the lectures, and shall periodically set written tests, based on the book-work and lectures jointly.

4. With a view to granting each nurse a certificate of efficiency, the Local Government Board will, during the currency of the period of training, examine the probationers in the following subjects:—

(a) ELEMENTARY ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

(i.) *Elementary Anatomy.*—Histological description of the tissues of the body. Elementary knowledge of the bones, joints, muscles, heart,

blood-vessels, lymphatic vessels, brain, spinal cord, nerves, organs of sense, and the viscera.

(ii.) *Elementary Physiology.*—Mechanism of the skeleton. Properties and mode of action of muscular tissue. Secretion. Functions of the organs of secretion. Excretion. Functions of the organs of excretion. The chemistry of the body. Digestion. Physiology of the blood, and of the circulation of the blood. Physiology of respiration. Functions of the nervous system and of the organs of special sense.

(b) HYGIENE AND DIETETICS.

Air in relation to health; its composition and impurities. Ventilation. Heat in relation to health. Modes of heating and measurement of heat. Water in relation to health. Supply and impurities of water. Effects of impurities in air and in water on the health. Effects of exercise, rest, and occupation. Drainage of houses in relation to health. Effects of bad drainage. Clothing in relation to health. The causes of infection. Microbes; their activities and effects on health. Modes of infection. Prevention of infection. Modes of disinfection.

Classification of foods—proximate principles. Composition of foods and dietaries. Rationale of food-taking. Nutritive value of the common articles of diet. Preparation of simple articles of diet for invalids. Effects of cooking.

(c) MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING.

(i.) *Medical Nursing.*—General management of the sickroom and hospital ward. Hospital discipline. Drugs—their administration and action. First aid in cases of poisoning and in emergencies generally. An elementary knowledge of the symptoms of diseases, including infectious diseases and diseases of children, with treatment and management.

(ii.) *Surgical Nursing.*—Principles of, and appliances used in, antiseptic surgery. Principles of aseptic surgery and methods of sterilisation. Management of a surgical operation. Treatment before and after operation. Elementary knowledge of the common surgical cases, with treatment and nursing appropriate to each. Bandaging, splints, and other immobilising apparatus. Knowledge of the simpler surgical instruments.

(d) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A general knowledge of bacteria: their nature, their products, and the results of their action. Infection and the various methods by which infectious diseases are communicated to the human subject. Fever: its causation, symptoms, and management. Immunity: the principles of vaccine and serum treatment. Vaccination against small-pox. Principles of prevention of infection. Isolation: quarantine: disinfection. Hospital arrangements. Cubicle and barrier nursing. The incubation periods of the various infectious diseases mentioned below. The causation, symptoms, complications, and management of tuberculosis, scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, measles, erysipelas, and smallpox. A general idea of the clinical facts regarding typhus fever, cerebro-spinal fever, chicken-pox, rubella (German measles), mumps, whooping cough, and purperal fever. Contagious skin diseases.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)