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EDITORIAL.

A SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL TRAINING IN THE NURSING OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The demand for nurses possessing experience in the treatment and care of tuberculosis, in all its forms, is steadily increasing, and there is every likelihood that it will continue to do so.

The Sanatoria to be built, to meet the requirements of the National Insurance Act, will make a large demand on the profession for trained nurses having this special experience to fill the posts of Matrons, sisters, and nurses.

The Local Health Committees and Tuberculosis Dispensaries make the same demand, and all report difficulty in obtaining nurses possessing any definite training in tuberculosis work.

With a knowledge of these conditions, and a commendable realization of the opportunities thus presented to nurses, the authorities of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C., have upon the suggestion of the Matron, Miss M. S. Rundle, initiated a School for special training in the Nursing of Tuberculosis in all its forms, the training to be divided into three sections, as follows:

A Post Graduate Course of one year for nurses possessing a certificate of general training. Nurses to reside in the hospital, taking the position of staff nurses, and to receive a salary as such.

A Preliminary Course of two years for probationers not possessing a certificate. Nurses to reside in the hospital, taking the position of probationers, and to receive a salary as such.

A Post Graduate Course of three or six months for trained nurses not attached to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. For this course a fee will be charged. In each instance a very thorough training

will be given in practical work, by means of lectures and demonstrations, on tuberculosis in relation to the hospital, sanatorium, tuberculosis dispensary, and home, by the Medical Officer of Health, members of the Medical Staff and the Matron. The nurses will spend a certain time in the new tuberculosis dispensary attached to the hospital, and also in district work, studying the hygienic and sanitary conditions of the homes visited, from the point of view of public health in relation to tuberculosis.

The system of health visiting already established at the hospital, and carried on by two resident sisters, affords exceptional opportunities for giving this training. In each course the nurses will be required to pass an examination in the subjects studied, and to prove themselves able to write up reports on the social and sanitary conditions of the homes visited, for the Medical Officer of Health, and it is the intention of the authorities, that the certificate granted shall be one of high merit.

A Register of nurses who have gained the certificate of the hospital will be kept, and recommendations made to committees and others applying for nurses to fill posts in which a special knowledge of the nursing and care of tuberculosis patients is required.

Applications for particulars of Courses 1 and 2 should be made to the Matron. Notices will appear in due course as to the conditions connected with Course 3.

We congratulate the authorities of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest on the inauguration of these courses. Their organization and the supervision of the nurses will, we are sure, be a most congenial task to the Matron, Miss M. S. Rundle, who as Isla Stewart scholar at Teachers' College, Columbia University, has had exceptional opportunities for studying the best and most up to date methods of teaching.

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