

dressings, the principles of asepsis and anti-sepsis—the care of instruments—the mending and care of linen, are other matters which claim their attention.

A course in invalid cookery is also given by a certificated cook, and practical classes are held in the special kitchen which forms a part of the school. The experience gained here is most valuable. The pupils also attend to those nurses on the sick list in the nurses' ward close by, and they soon learn how to prepare actual meals for tired people who require tempting with dainty and appetising food.

The pupils in the preliminary training school also attend prayers morning and evening in the Hospital Chapel. Towards the end of the six weeks' course of instruction written, oral, and practical examinations are held, and if the pupil fail to pass this test she is not admitted to work in the hospital wards. At Guy's Hospital a fee of £6 6s. is charged for the six weeks' course, the pupil receiving board and residence in special quarters in the Nurses' Home. This period of six weeks is not included in the three years' training in the wards.

It may be interesting to compare the system practised at Baltimore with that which obtains in the English Schools. For the first six months of their three years' training, the nurses of the Johns Hopkins Hospital spend most of their time in attending classes and demonstrations; they only enter the wards for two hours daily during the last two weeks of the six months for practical instruction in elementary nursing. The ground covered by the entire course is very extensive. Instruction is given in the following subjects:—(a) Household economics, (b) Hygiene and Sanitation, (c) Anatomy and Physiology, including laboratory work, (d) *Materia medica*, (e) Elementary nursing. In addition to class teaching, visits are paid to markets, factories, and public buildings. A study is made of the relative cost of food stuffs, of lighting and heating problems for large or small buildings. Laundry work also receives attention, and visits are paid to various institutions in order that different schemes of ventilation and sanitation may be studied. Strictly speaking, this cannot be called a preliminary course, as it forms part of the three years' training, but it covers all the ground of the preliminary training school. It embraces a good deal of the instruction which, in the British Schools of Nursing, is spread over the three years' course for certificate, and, in addition, it includes a more extensive survey of household economics and housewifery.

At the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the preliminary training for pupil nurses lasts three months, and during this time the pupils find board and lodging at their own expense. A candidate is not accepted as eligible for the course of instruction unless she can produce evidence of a satisfactory preliminary education, either the leaving certificate of the Scottish Education Department, or the Senior and Junior certificates of the Local University Examinations. There are two courses of instruction to be followed; an examination is held at the conclusion of each course, and only those candidates who have passed the first examination are allowed to proceed to the second course of lectures. When the second course has been completed and the examination passed, the pupil is allowed to enter the infirmary for her four years' training. The first course taken at St. Mungo's College consists of lectures and demonstrations on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene—twelve in each subject. A fee of two guineas is charged. The second course, taken at the Royal Infirmary, comprises lectures and demonstrations on the nursing of surgical cases, the nursing of medical cases, upon ward work and sick room cookery, twenty lectures in each subject. For this second course a fee of three guineas is charged. For large hospitals, when a sufficient number of pupils can enter at one time, competition is stimulated, and there are very great advantages to be derived from the plan of having the Preliminary School within the hospital precincts. Such an arrangement should, I think, be made wherever possible. The idea of a large preliminary training college should be suitable for the smaller hospitals which lack funds or space to establish separate schools of their own. The pupils who attend this central college should have free choice of hospital, and the course of preliminary instruction should follow lines approved by a joint committee of representatives from those hospitals which agree to the scheme.

I consider myself that in our British preliminary training schools the course ought to be extended to eight, or even twelve weeks, and that more attention should be given to household economics and housewifery problems, than is at present possible in the period at our disposal.

I have endeavoured in this short paper to bring before the Conference the subject of the Preliminary Training of Nurses, and to indicate some of the points in favour of such a system. I hope that the remarks which I have made may be introductory to a general discussion.

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