

after only a few years of Private Nursing began to doubt their ability to arrange for an operation—to be uncertain as to the correctness of detail—not because they were not perfectly capable of arranging everything, but because, knowing that the procedure was so frequently changing, they began to feel a little “out of date,” and consequently nervous. A short post-graduate course once in six or eight years would remove this feeling, and give an intelligent Nurse fresh confidence in herself. And not Private Nurses only, but District Nurses, Nurses in small Cottage Hospitals, or those who have been working abroad for some time, often feel that they would like to study the latest Hospital methods. Opportunity to do so however, is not easily obtained. For District Nurses living in or near a large town, and also for Nurses in small Cottage Hospitals near enough to get into town quickly, there should be little difficulty in arranging a course of lectures and demonstrations which would be both helpful and interesting, and which might be held weekly, for the hours of these Nurses are fairly regular, and they are not frequently moving from one place to another, as is the case with Private Nurses. For these, and also for Nurses home from abroad, this method is obviously impracticable. The usual way of “rubbing-up” at present is to obtain some months’ holiday work in a hospital. This is not altogether satisfactory, either from the point of view of the Hospital or the Nurse. After some years of Private Nursing, or of work in hot climates, Nurses can seldom manage the hard routine work of a hospital ward, and they are therefore not too welcome to the other members of the staff, as they cannot do their proper share of the work, and the fatigue of trying to do so prevents them from benefiting as much as they might from the experience, and sometimes necessitates a long holiday afterwards. A post-graduate course, framed especially for such Nurses, would enable them to learn new methods in a much shorter time, and if they were free of all ward duties they would be able to vary the experience as much as possible, to see the most interesting cases, and the most modern treatment in the whole of the Institution, instead of remaining for some time in one ward or department, as they must, if acting as members of the regular staff.

The most advantageous place for a course of post-graduate teaching would be, in my opinion, a large hospital with medical school attached—not because I claim that the nursing is necessarily superior to that in any other

Hospital, but because there the Visiting Staff are teachers, and regular teaching is given to students in the wards, the most regular research work is done, and the most modern treatment is likely to be practised. It also offers the best all-round experience. The plan I should try to arrange, should my Committee see fit to start such a post-graduate course for Nurses, would be roughly as follows—(but may I remind you that this is as yet but a “Castle in the Air”). The course would last six weeks, the pupils spending about six hours daily in the wards except on Saturday and Sunday, when they would spend fewer, or be free altogether.

The first and second weeks they should spend in the medical wards, not in one, but in all, male, female, and children’s. As the Visiting Staff make their rounds in the morning with us, the pupils would spend that time in accompanying the Ward Sisters, and would listen to the instructions and orders of the Physicians. In the afternoon or evening—sometimes one and sometimes the other—they would return to the wards to see any particular treatment carried out, and to receive any explanations they might require from the Ward Sisters. The third week should be devoted to gynaecological and other special work; the fourth and fifth to the surgical wards, both accident and operation, and the sixth to the operating theatre, following in each instance the same plan as at first, which would give the opportunity of learning as much as possible from the Medical Staff in the morning, with supplementary teaching from the Sisters later in the day.

The pupils might consider themselves free to follow up any particular branch or cases which might be especially interesting or useful to them, but it would not, of course, be possible to teach anything of such special work as massage, electrical or X-ray work in so short a time. The instruction should be mainly clinical, but one or two lectures should be given during the course: one by a Physician on the changes in medical treatment, which would help the pupils to better understand the teaching in the wards, and likewise one by a Surgeon, and another by a gynaecological specialist. The Matron or her Assistants or Ward Sisters should give one or two lessons or practical demonstrations, and the Theatre Sister should give demonstrations also in sterilizing, preparation of ligatures, &c.

The Nurses whom I would admit to the course would all be fully trained and certificated Nurses; it should not become a means whereby the semi-trained woman might add to her half-

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