

STANDARD CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION.

So ignorant are the majority of persons who meddle with nursing affairs in this country, that when last year the Editor of this JOURNAL had the great honour of honorary membership conferred upon her, by the American National League of Nursing Education, she was asked to explain why the distinction was so keenly appreciated by her.

The National League of Nursing Education was formerly the Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, composed of the 600 Superintendents (Matrons) of the leading Nursing Schools in the United States of America, to whose devoted efforts during the past twenty-five years the co-ordination not only of nursing organization, but nursing education on the most progressive lines is due—and to be singled out by this body of experts as their only British colleague is just the one honour we appreciate more than any other.

This week's mail brings us the fruit of the past year's work of the National League in the form of the "Standard Curriculum for Schools of Nursing," prepared by our Committee on Education—a monumental publication, which cannot fail to be the standard work on the subject for many years to come.

The names of the Superintendents who formed the Committee is a guarantee of the high excellence which has resulted from their work.

M. Adelaide Nutting, *Chairman*, Teachers' College, New York City.

Isabel M. Stewart, *Secretary*, Teachers' College, New York City.

Ella Phillips Crandall, Council of National Defence, Washington.

Mary S. Gardiner, Providence District Nursing Association.

Annie W. Goodrich, Teachers' College, New York City, Chief Inspecting Nurse of American Army Hospitals.

Mary C. Wheeler, Illinois Training School, Chicago.

Mary M. Riddle, Newton Hospital, Mass.

Elsie M. Lawler, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

Mary Beard, Boston Institute of District Nursing, Mass.

Louise M. Powell, University Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn.

Edna C. Foley, Public Health Nursing, Chicago.

Elizabeth Burgess, State Education Department, Albany.

Mary W. McKechnie, New York City.

Susan E. Tracy, Jamaica Plains, Mass.

It is superfluous to say that these experts have done their work admirably. It could not have been better done.

The Handbook will deserve careful study before we venture to review it in detail. Suffice it to say that at the request of the Council of the National League, the Committee undertook the task of preparing a curriculum which might serve as a guide to training schools struggling to establish good standards of nursing education, and which might also represent to the public and to those who wish to study our work, a fair idea of what, under our present system, we conceive to be an acceptable training for the profession of nursing.

In sending out this curriculum, the Committee desires to emphasize its hope that there will be no failure to understand its purpose. It is not offered as a "model" curriculum. There are many improvements they would gladly introduce, if they could see any possibility of putting them into effect at the present time; but the purpose which the Committee has had in view, is to arrive at some general agreement as to a desirable and workable standard whose main features could be accepted by training schools of good standing throughout the country.

In this way it is hoped that we may be able to gradually overcome the wide diversity of standards at present existing in schools of nursing, and at least supply a basis for appraising the value of widely different systems of nursing training. There is little doubt that the next few years will see many new developments along nursing lines. It is the intention of the Committee to keep the curriculum up-to-date by constant revision, and to supplement the material in this first edition from time to time.

The work is primarily divided into two main sections, with sub-divisions, under the headings:—

(1) THE RELATION OF HOSPITAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION TO THE CURRICULUM.

(a) The General Purposes, Character and Standing of the Hospital.

(b) Form and Functions of Training School Reform.

(c) Type and Capacity of Hospital.

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