

STANDARD CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

In our issue of April 13th we published a preliminary notice of the Standard Curriculum for Schools of Nursing prepared by the Committee on Education of the National League of Nursing Education, U.S.A. As in this country so in America the war is exercising a profound influence on nursing and the training of nurses. Thus we read:—

"The war is making us realize, what the public generally and the training schools have been slow to recognize, that nursing is in a very special sense a national service, and that the training of the nurse is a matter of vital concern, not only to her hospital and to herself, but to the country at large. It is not enough that she should serve the needs of a single institution or a limited group of people. She must be ready to serve the whole community, and to meet conditions as she finds them in many different kinds of communities.

"It is becoming clearly evident that if she is to do this effectively we must revise many of our old ideas about the nurse's training. The value of her service is being recognized in so many new fields of work, and the character of that service is changing so rapidly, that the preparation which was considered quite adequate a few years ago is no longer sufficient.

"The steady expansion into new and exacting fields of work, and the character of that service is changing so rapidly, that the preparation which was considered quite adequate a few years ago is no longer sufficient. The steady expansion into new and exacting fields of effort is continually revealing to us both the strength and the weakness of our methods of training. The strength lies in the character of the actual practical work, which in most training schools is sincere and thorough, and performed in a spirit of devotion, zeal, and self-forgetfulness which is remarkable. Teachers and students alike are imbued with this spirit. It has become a part of the history and tradition of nursing, and forms an almost invaluable contribution to the world's service. The weakness lies in the over-emphasis placed on the practical aspects of the training and the consequent neglect of the theoretical foundation on which really good practical work must always be built.

"Another limitation of the training is that it deals only or mainly with disease, neglecting almost entirely the preventive and educational factors, which are such an essential element in

the many new branches of public health work, such as school and visiting nursing, infant welfare, industrial welfare, and hospital social service. Similarly the physical causes and evidences of disease have been recognized as important, but the social and economic conditions which lie at the root of so many of our disease problems have usually been overlooked in the course of training. This knowledge is fundamental, particularly in the newer branches of nursing, and the lack of it is a distinct handicap to the nurse in her work.

"It is not only in public health work that the need for a sounder and more adequate foundation is felt. If the sick patient is to have the most skilful and competent kind of nursing care, and if nurses are to keep pace with the advance of modern medicine, they must have something more than a mere deftness in precise manipulations and the scattered fragments of scientific knowledge which are all that can usually be given in the scant time allowed by most hospital training schools. The development of more highly complicated procedures in diagnosis and treatment, and the increased emphasis, especially on dietetic, occupational and mental factors in the treatment of disease, make it necessary that the nurse should assume an increasing measure of responsibility in the care and treatment of the patient. To safeguard her in those responsible duties, she must have a larger measure of scientific knowledge, and a more highly trained judgment.

"In positions of leadership especially, we are suffering from the lack of well-trained women. Hospitals and training schools are looking everywhere for competent women to undertake the important duties of superintendents, supervisors, teachers, and technical experts in many different departments. Unless the hospital itself selects good women, and gives them a broad substantial foundation to begin with, there is little hope that we will develop many of the kind of leaders who are needed for our very responsible educational and administrative work."

(To be continued.)

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR

The War Office announces the following deaths of Nurses on Active Service:—

NURSING SERVICE.

DIED.

Pepper, Miss E. D., Nursing Service.

CANADIAN NURSING SERVICE.

DIED.

Whitely, Sister A. E., Canadian Nursing Service.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)