

The Committee recommend that a night nurse should have an average of not less than one night off duty weekly, and should be allowed if she wishes to take these days together, in whole or part, subject to arrangement with the Matron. Where one day has to be taken by itself the Nurse should be allowed off duty from a quarter to half-past nine one morning till 5 p.m. the following day.

**V.—For how long a period does a Nurse remain on Night Duty?**

The Committee recommend that Night Nurses should remain on night duty for three months at a time, neither more nor less, and a period of at least nine months should elapse before going on night duty again.

**THEATRE STAFF.**

**1.—What are the hours of the Theatre Staff?**

Owing to the character of the work, there can be no time table for operations. There must be alternating phases of rush and slackness, and with a sufficiently trained staff the work spread over a long period would average itself. The Committee consider, however, that no Nurse student should remain in the theatre for more than eight hours on any one day.

**II.—Is the Night Theatre Staff distinct from the Day Theatre Staff?**

The Night Theatre Staff should be distinct from the Day Theatre Staff.

**UNIFORM.**

The Committee recommend that all obligatory uniform should be provided by the Hospital, except for the first three months, when the Nurse student might reasonably be expected to provide for herself. It might even be possible to provide a uniform by loan.

When it is considered by the Hospital authorities that, for the protection of the Nurse students, outdoor uniform should be worn, the uniform should be provided by the Hospital.

**EDUCATION.**

**I.—Is there an Entrance Examination on General Knowledge, or is an Educational Certificate demanded?**

The replies to this question appear to show that only in very few Institutions is precaution taken to see that Nurse students before entering upon their profession possess sufficient general education. The Committee consider this to be a defect which should be remedied. They do not recommend that Hospitals should themselves conduct Entrance Examinations, but they might wisely, after due notice given, require the production by entrants of evidence that they have passed examinations indicating a tolerable standard of education or have been for a substantial period under regular instruction in a School inspected or recognised by the Board of Education. Till such regulation can be enforced, such evidence should be adduced as may be possible to prove that a proposed Nurse student is sufficiently equipped educationally. It is assumed that

candidates are always seen personally by the Matron or some other responsible officer of the Hospital.

The Committee are assured that as a rule the best Nurses are found among those who have spent some time at home after leaving school. Assuming that a good standard of general education has been reached by a girl before leaving school the new system of part-time day continuation classes should enable her while enjoying home life to select a part-time continuation course which would suitably combine subjects of general culture and interest with subjects in a measure preparatory to a future career in nursing, sanitary, or social welfare work. At 18 years of age if the girl definitely desires to become a Nurse certain alternatives might be open to her, such as, to enter at once as a Nurse student in children's wards, or to take special preparatory courses with scientific bias at a Preparatory Nursing School or at some Technical College, and enter at 20 years of age as a Nurse student in a general Hospital. The age of 20 is probably not too young for entrants, provided the course in Hospital is rendered less exacting and strenuous for the physique than at present, and is more generously adapted to meet the natural requirements of young life in the way of off-time facilities ready to hand for recreation, and liberty of action when not on duty.

**II.—What System of Theoretical Education is provided?**

**III.—Over what Period of Training do the Nurses' Lectures and Examinations extend?**

**IV.—(1). What Course of Lectures are given and by whom?**

**(2).—Are the Lectures given in the Off-Duty or On-Duty Time?**

The Committee do not find it possible from the replies given to these questions to form a clear opinion as to the value (or even the aims) of the training now given in Hospitals in the Theory and Practice of Nursing, or in those technical subjects, the knowledge of which is necessary for a Nurse. They consider it of the greatest importance that a carefully thought-out system of training should be elaborated in every Hospital, under which a Nurse student would receive during her course the requisite amount of theoretical instruction as well as a properly balanced training on the practical side of her profession.

The Committee recommend that time occupied by Nurse students in attendance at lectures should be counted as time spent on-duty.

**(3). Is any time allowed during On-Duty for Study?**

With the increased off-duty time proposed (question IX., 4) the Nurse student will be expected to devote some of her leisure hours to preparation for lectures and study.

**(4). Is any Assistance given to a Nurse who is backward with her Studies?**

The Committee, while fully recognising that personal help and encouragement should be given to a backward Nurse by the Medical Staff, Matron, Sisters, and Nurses, cannot recommend

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)