

of drudgery in ward work, and the low rates of pay that have hitherto obtained in this profession.

(4) A neglect on the part of the hospital authorities, or of the community in which the hospital is located, to offer facilities for the social welfare and general training of the nurses. Plenty of time and energy, as a rule, are expended on the professional side of her training, but far too little has been attempted in the way of providing opportunities for the more general development of the nurse's life.

If hospitals desire to obtain a larger flow of recruits to the Nursing Service, then each of the following points, as suggested by a Hospital Secretary, must receive due consideration, namely:—

1. Training—theoretical and practical—to be of the highest order, as certified by an outside examiner.
2. Salaries—adequate.
3. Quarters shall be comfortable.
4. Food—good and varied.
5. Regular annual holidays and frequent off-time duty.
6. Healthy recreations and general comfort should be arranged."

McGill University is to have a school for graduate nurses, opening next October, partly supported by the Canadian Red Cross and, it is hoped, by hospitals and other institutions. Two courses are proposed, one for public health nursing, the other in methods of teaching and administration of schools of nursing, enabling graduate nurses to utilise executive ability they may possess and train for positions of responsibility. McGill is the first Canadian university to offer the latter course. The nurse-director of the new school will be Miss Madeline Shaw, R.N., of Teachers' College, Columbia University, and a graduate of Montreal General Hospital.

The *American Journal of Nursing* reports that after the vote of the delegates at the Atlanta convention in favour of central headquarters in New York, the committee in charge made inquiry as to possible office space. It was greatly desired that this should be found in the building at 156, Fifth Avenue, where the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing is located, and it finally has been possible to secure it. Two offices have been leased, and Miss Albaugh will be office director for the present. The Red Cross finances the undertaking for the first year. The American Nurses' Association, the National League of

Nursing Education, and the Department of Nursing of the Red Cross are fully represented.

### THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL. RULES FOR REGISTRATION.

We note that in his address to the South Yorkshire Branch of the National Poor Law Officers Association, at Doncaster, Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, Master of the Walton Institution, appears to be under a misapprehension concerning the proposed Rules for the Registration of Existing Nurses, and is confusing them with those proposed for Intermediate Nurses. This is probably because at the meeting of the Council to which he alludes and at which the Press was admitted for the first time, the latter rules were under consideration. Mr. Roberts is reported to have said at Darlington:

"If there were any imbecile attendants and assistant nurses present at that meeting he called their attention to a meeting of the Nursing Council recently held. If they did not wake up, their livelihood might be taken from them. Although these officers might have given years to the Service and be perfectly efficient, if they did not hold a certificate they would have to look to it. That was a matter to which the attention of the Association should be called. They should see that safeguards were incorporated so that at least those in office should not be deprived of their office because they did not hold a certificate."

The draft rules for nurses in practice before November 1st, 1919 to be submitted to the Minister of Health, must conform with the Nurses' Registration Act, and the latter permits every nurse of good character whether she holds a certificate of training or not, to register during the term of two years grace. But the Government did wisely in limiting this privilege to those in practice before the above date. So no hardship in this connection is proposed as Mr. Roberts appears to think—indeed Parliament always deals very tenderly with prescriptive rights in founding professions, and usually ignores those of individual effort. To make matters clear, under the Act three classes of nurses have to be provided for: (1) Existing Nurses; those in practice before 1st November, 1919. (2) Intermediate Nurses; those whose training terminates after that date, and during the term of grace; and Future Nurses who will be required to conform to the standard of training and examination set up by the General Nursing Council, after the term of grace—presumably from 1923.

Different rules must be drafted by the Council for all three classes, and be agreed to by the Minister of Health, and by Parliament before they can be enforced.

Those for Existing Nurses, and Intermediate Nurses, have been drafted, and presumably after the adjournment of the Council when it reassembles, it will set to work in earnest to consider the future organisation of Nursing Education, the most responsible duty for which it exists.

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