

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

DRAFT SYLLABUS OF LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND TRAINING IN GENERAL NURSING.

The following Draft Syllabus has been issued by the authority of the General Nursing Council to Hospital and Poor Law Authorities, hoping that careful attention may be given to it preparatory to discussion at the Conference to be held on April 28th prox. :—

PREFACE.

You are no doubt aware that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has been appointed under the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919 (9 & 10 Geo. 5, c. 94).

By the said Act the Council is directed to make rules requiring as a condition of the admission of any person to the register that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and shall possess the prescribed experience in the nursing of the sick :

requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out either in an institution approved by the Council in that behalf or in the service of the Admiralty, the Army Council, or the Air Council, and the Council is directed to make rules for regulating the conduct of any examinations which may be prescribed as a condition of admission to the register, and any matters ancillary to or connected with any such examination.

These provisions apply to future nurses as distinguished from existing nurses defined by the Act.

In pursuance of its duties the Council has been engaged in preparing the rules for the prescribed training which nurses must in future undergo in order that after examination the Council may be satisfied such nurses possess the prescribed experience in the nursing of the sick, and it is also compiling a list of institutions approved by the Council in which the prescribed training shall be carried out. In due course it proposes to issue rules and dates for the holding of examinations.

The General Nursing Council has compiled the enclosed syllabus of training in the hope that it may aid the training schools in arriving at a general standard of nursing education, and in order to inform them of the general lines of education and the standard required by the Council to be attained by candidates.

The Council believes this syllabus will meet the needs of schools of various resources and equipment, and enable them to prepare their pupils for the examinations contemplated by the Statute. It is intended to outline a minimum standard, and the method of arrangement has been chosen to give a clear exposition of the scheme.

The syllabus is planned to cover a three years' course of instruction with subjects allotted to the different years on a convenient working basis. The distribution of the material does not necessarily indicate a series of individual lectures, but rather a grouping of the subject-matter.

The table for the first year, if read in parallel across the paper, permits of the first three sections being linked up as a whole, and as they might very suitably be taught in relationship to each other by one teacher, e.g., a sister-tutor.

If read in series down the page, the table suggests the headings that might suitably form a course of lectures arranged on each given subject upon which the pupil would eventually be examined.

Ward management and hospital economy should have more care bestowed upon them than appears to be the case in general at present, and special emphasis should be laid upon economy in the use of hospital property.

Public sanitation and public health are subjects of growing importance in the training of a nurse, both to widen her outlook and to counteract the limited vision sometimes acquired in the sick wards. They should be brought to her notice from the outset and kept in full view throughout her training.

Whilst fully realising the value of lectures and demonstrations given by medical practitioners and others on special subjects in which they are experts, the Council wishes to emphasise the importance it attaches to the lectures and teaching given by fully trained nurses, i.e., Matrons, Sister-Tutors, Ward Sisters, &c., as they can bring to the subjects the true nursing outlook gained by their own personal knowledge and practical experience.

The Council also attaches great importance to the giving of revision classes to pupils, the correction of their note books, and the personal supervision of the pupil nurse in all stages of her training and study.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON SYLLABUS.

The Council desire to draw attention to the following points for a full understanding of the scheme :—

1. The **Classification** is purposely condensed to permit of free interpretation.
2. Scientific terms are used for convenience, as being more comprehensive and less misleading, but are intended to be interpreted, especially in the first year, in a simple and elementary way, and as much as possible in direct relationship to practical details.
3. **Bacteriology** may be desired as a separate subject, by more advanced schools, but in the submitted scheme it can find place under Elementary Hygiene or Theoretical Nursing (and for that reason is included under both headings), and will be dealt with by both physician and surgeon in the senior courses of lectures.
4. **The Technique of the Operating Theatres** is included under Surgical Technique, but where facilities for actual experience in theatre work are not forthcoming, it is advisable that extra lectures with demonstrations be given on the subject.
5. **Domestic Ward Management**, including methods of cleaning, care of ward furniture, bedding and clothing, care of cupboards, kitchens, bathrooms, lavatories, disposal and disinfection of soiled linen, the serving of food, &c., should be special details of ward training, but can be emphasised in lectures on Hygiene and Practical Nursing.
6. **Hospital Economy** is included under Elementary Hygiene and Household Science.
7. **Nursing of Communicable Diseases** may be well taught in the first year, both in connection with Hygiene and Public Health and with Theoretical Nursing, but the subject should be again dealt with and amplified as to pathology and treatment in the medical lectures given later by the physician.
8. **Diseases of Infants and Children** find place on the Syllabus in the General Diseases and their nursing in both first and second or third years, and need not necessarily be a separate subject.

Feeding of infants and children will be found under the heading of Theoretical Nursing and of Food and Food Values.

Public Sanitation and Public Health are introduced under Hygiene for elementary treatment, or included in a course of Chemistry or Elementary Science.

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