

not aware that a voluntary examination would be held in 1923.

There was also the question of the number of beds. The Committee suggested that material should be considered, *i.e.*, the number and nature of cases rather than the number of beds.

MISS SCOVELL, R.R.C., Matron of the General Hospital, Swansea, expressed deep interest in what she had heard. She had been much struck by the termination of nurses' careers. She expressed the opinion that the Syllabus was overloaded for those not intending to teach. A Sister who could not teach was not much good, but for private and other nurses the standard seemed somewhat high.

Their surroundings in the wards were a shock to many young girls when they first entered a hospital. If this heavy Syllabus had also to be crowded into the first twelve months there was a risk of their breaking down.

MISS C. E. TODD, M.M., R.R.C., Matron of St. James' Infirmary, Balham, while welcoming the Syllabus, asked if it would be possible to have a post-graduate examination after the three years' training, which could be taken by those seeking the higher posts. It was not necessary for private nurses to take advanced subjects, but those contemplating holding Ward Sisters' posts should have the opportunity of doing so.

MISS ROGERS, Matron of St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, said that they had already commenced training in that school very much on the lines of the Syllabus. They had found it absolutely necessary to include thorough training in a Preliminary School. Then 90 per cent. of the nurses would be capable of assimilating it. It would be quite possible to work up to the Syllabus. In her experience good theoretical nurses were usually good practical nurses also.

MISS HELEN PEARSE, President of the National Union of Trained Nurses, thought that Public Health instruction should follow general training, in post-graduate classes. She would like to see a great deal of instruction provided for as to health work, but they must not weaken the call to take the Government Public Health Course. She did not think it advisable to include Public Health, and Infant Welfare work in ground-work.

She was of opinion that there should be Post-graduate instruction to qualify Sisters for teaching Probationers, and that the possession of this qualification should be definitely recognised by payment of additional salary.

Miss Pearse emphasised the importance of instruction in the reporting of facts. Accuracy in this respect was not easy of attainment. She would also like instruction in clerical work, in which most nurses were weak, included in the Syllabus, and that one lecture should be given on business methods.

On the whole she thought rather too much ground was covered in the Syllabus in the three years, especially in the first.

MISS DORA FINCH, R.R.C., Matron of University College Hospital, W.C., spoke briefly in support of the Syllabus. She thought it was excellently

drawn up, and the subjects it defined were practically taught at University College Hospital at the present time. They had an excellent Tutor-Sister who taught all day long, and doctors taught anatomy and physiology.

MISS SAUNDERS, Sister-Tutor at the London Hospital, said instruction in regard to business points was brought into the teaching of pupils at the London every week. For the last ten years they had introduced lessons on Infant Welfare into the course. Probationers went to the Out-patients' Department quite often, where they were brought in contact with Infant Welfare problems, and it was important that knowledge of the principles underlying this work should be placed before them.

She considered it would be quite easy to carry the Syllabus through, provided that probationers went through a course in a Preliminary Training School.

MISS H. HANNATH, R.R.C., Matron, General Hospital, Wolverhampton, stated she had been asked by her Board of Managers to say they thought the difficulties of carrying out the Syllabus great, unless they had the help of a Tutor Sister, and the supply of Sister-Tutors was not adequate at the present time. The question of expense was also a difficulty unless the State was prepared to help.

They considered the instruction, as defined in the Syllabus, should be the maximum, not the minimum. Unless a medical school was attached to a hospital it was difficult to get probationers. They wanted girls with a high school education.

MISS FOUNTAIN, Sister-Tutor at Lambeth Infirmary, considered that if the Syllabus were carefully studied it would be found that it could be carried out. An inferior type of nurse with little education might not assimilate it, but now it was hoped a better class would be applying.

She thought it was up to the training schools to try to work to the Syllabus. She believed it could be done, and would try to do so.

MISS A. R. HARE, Matron, North Bierley Union Infirmary, thought there would be difficulties for those not able to have a Preliminary Training School. She wished for a definite explanation as to how much they must do. Would it be permissible, if general instruction were given to their probationers, for them to attend certain classes in the town. She was of opinion that the Nurse Training Schools under the Ministry of Health wished to go forward, not back.

THE SUMMING UP.

Miss Cox Davies, R.R.C., said it was her duty to sum up in ten minutes a discussion which had taken two hours.

Briefly, the Chairman had opened the Conference by welcoming all present in the name of the General Nursing Council, and Miss Lloyd Still had given an able and masterly interpretation of the Syllabus in its present form. The Draft Syllabus was to be regarded from the point of view of the Nursing Profession, and also concerning

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