

PRELIMINARY TRAINING SCHOOLS.

GUY'S HOSPITAL, S.E.

As nursing education was systematised, the need of preliminary training for probationers became evident, and both in the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Finland, such schools have been organised in connection with some of the largest nurse training schools. In this country, principally from economic reasons, the organisation of preliminary training schools for nurses has progressed slowly; but the unanimous report where they have been instituted is that, both from the point of view of the training school and the pupil, they are most desirable. No school which has made the experiment would willingly return to the method of admitting new probationers directly to the wards.

Thirty years ago the principle was advocated by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and pride of place as a pioneer in the United Kingdom must be given to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, where, in 1893, the matron at that time, Mrs. Strong, inaugurated courses of Preliminary Instruction in nursing, for candidates who satisfied the managers as to their knowledge of grammar, composition, spelling, dictation, reading, writing and arithmetic. Then followed the London Hospital, Guy's Hospital, St. Thomas's Hospital, the Leicester Infirmary (now the Royal Infirmary, Leicester), the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, the General Infirmary, Leeds, and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, will soon follow suit. There is also in Dublin a Metropolitan Technical School, but this is a Central School for first year probationers, rather than a Preliminary School.

PRELIMINARY NURSING SCHOOL, GUY'S HOSPITAL.

The Preliminary Nursing School at Guy's Hospital, London, S.E., now receives twenty pupils for a course of theoretical instruction and practical work, the fee for the course—including board-residence and tuition—being six guineas. Originally the course was for six weeks, but it is now extended to between seven and eight weeks. The School is housed at the top of the Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home, specially designed for this purpose, and already it has outgrown its accommodation. When the new wing of the Home, which is now approaching completion, is ready for occupation, the Preliminary School will extend its borders. There are two Sisters in charge of the School, Sister Florence Dankerley (Senior), and Sister Mildred Hughes. Each pupil is provided with a comfortable bedroom, and there is a common sitting room, class rooms, lecture room, museum, and kitchen for sick room cookery. Further, the sick room for eight nurses is on the same floor as the School, and, except the polishing of the floor, is kept in order by the pupils of the school, including the bed-making; but all dressings are done by the Sisters, who are responsible for the nursing. The Syllabus of lectures for the class recently received at the Preliminary School is as follows:—

Elementary Anatomy and Physiology.—Introduction to Anatomy; the Skeleton; Muscular Tissue; the Science of Physiology, the Digestive System; the Absorptive System; the Circulatory System; the Respiratory System; the Excretory System; the Nervous System; the Control of Hæmorrhage.

Hygiene.—Personal Hygiene; Food; Milk and Infants' Feeding; Air and Ventilation; Heating; Water; Drainage; Infectious Diseases; Sepsis and Asepsis.

Sick Room Cookery.—Ten Practical Classes, ten Theoretical Lectures.

Practical Classes.—Ward stock, bed-making, bandaging, application and padding of splints, plaster bandages, poultices (various), fomentations (various), use of instruments, lotions, enemata, hypodermic injections, charts, house work.

A TYPICAL DAY.

Here is a typical day for the pupils in the Preliminary School:—

Breakfast 7.15 a.m. Chapel 7.40 a.m. Put books tidy; dust chapel. Practical work 8-10 a.m. House work, and in the kitchen preparing breakfast for sick nurses, &c. 10-11 a.m. Class on practical nursing (charts, enemata, fomentations, splints, &c.). 11 a.m. the class divides part to do sick room cooking, part house mending until dinner at 12.15 p.m. 12.40 p.m. Sick Room dinners served. 1-2 Silence Hour (study). From 2 o'clock until 3 o'clock, all pupils are off duty. At 3 p.m. half the class (the A's.) come on duty alternate days, the B's. are off duty until 5.30 p.m., and *vice versa*. At 3 o'clock there is a practical class for those on duty (bed-making, administration of hypodermics, splint padding, poultices, preparation and application of plaster bandages). At 4.15 the sick room teas are prepared and served. 5 p.m. tea. 5.30-6.40 p.m. lecture on Anatomy, Physiology, or Hygiene. At 6.45 the sick room suppers are served, after which lectures are written out until 8.45 p.m. Supper is at 8.45 p.m., then prayers in Chapel 9.30 p.m., in rooms 10 p.m.

On Saturday morning there is extra domestic work, on Saturday afternoon a practical class, linen is mended, and there is a demonstration on scrubbing mackintoshes and cleaning lamps.

On Saturday evening clean caps are made up and mending done, while the Sister gives a talk on Nursing Ethics. Every other Sunday the pupils are off duty from 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. It will be realised that the weeks of preliminary training are very full ones. The pupils keep their own rooms in order, and also those of the Head (third year) Nurses.

An enquiry elicited that, on an average, about two of the twenty preliminary pupils do not enter the hospital for training. Some had no conception of what the life would be like, a few fail on the practical side and others in theory. On entering the wards for training, pupils serve for a probationary period not exceeding three months, during which the Matron may at any time terminate the engagement. Otherwise at the end of that time, if passed by the Medical Officer and the Dentist,

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