

appointed by the governing authorities. Education of committees is much needed on this side of the question.

2. *Curriculum of Training*.—I fear I should take too much of your time did I attempt to deal with this subject in full. I will read you the suggested courses in the General Nursing Council's Syllabus and leave it with you for discussion.

The lowering of the age at which candidates can commence training has helped to bridge over the difficult period between leaving school and entering hospital; but this period might well be used in preparatory courses; indeed, the pupil who intends to become a trained nurse could be instructed in elementary anatomy and physiology, hygiene and social economics during the latter period of school-life, and then pass straight to a preliminary school of training where the practical side of nursing is taught. Proficiency in domestic cleaning, cookery, and bedmaking can be acquired prior to the hospital training. The probationer who has been trained to be quick, clean, accurate, and conscientious in carrying out orders would be an acquisition in a ward, instead of the hindrance she has often been in the past.

Any reference to a standard of nursing education would be inadequate without reference to the splendid Standard Curriculum drawn up by the Committee on Education, of the National League on Nursing Education in the United States of America, of which Professor M. Adelaide Nutting is Chairman.

3. *The Candidate*.—The discussion on this point always results in showing that we require a perfect character in our nursing candidate, but seriously is there any other work in which fine character plays so important a part?

Brains, intelligence and a good conscience, stir these up with good temper, good health and an open and receptive mind.

*Education*.—Here is the rock on which we are in danger of foundering. At present the failure of Nursing to attract women of education and intelligence is a very real difficulty. How can it be remedied? By showing intelligent and educated girls that nursing is a satisfying and remunerative career.

Charity, which has always played such a part in Nurses' affairs, has left the legacy of inadequate remuneration to the Trained Nurses—and it has been considered sordid and unworthy of a high calling to insist on a salary in some degree commensurate with the time, trouble and ability that has been spent in Training. This must cease, and it must be recognised that a good Nurse, often carrying the life of the patient in her hands must be paid not only enough to maintain existence, but enough to enable her to make provision for old age.

The Trained Nurse must have enough education to be able to recognise the importance of scientific care of the sick, and the ability to observe and record the results of medical and surgical orders.

4. *Post-Graduate Courses*.—In speaking of this work we have to remember the goal towards which we strive. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick once said,

"We should aspire with the medical profession to hold a watching brief for the national health. It is not sufficient she (the nurse) should be the instrument for the relief of suffering, she must be the harbinger of prevention."

Having laid a good foundation in the three years' training, which is hall-marked by a State examination, it is desirable that the Nurse should set herself to gain knowledge and skill in any special branch of work she intends to pursue—such as:—

1. Midwifery and Infant Welfare.
2. Public Health, including Sanitation, and District Nursing.
3. Mental Nursing.
4. Fever Nursing.

according to the prescribed curriculum in each case.

Courses of lectures should be available at all Women's Colleges, and arrangements for the necessary practical side, entered into with the authorities who are responsible for the different types of work.

Here I may refer to my own work in London and the Staff who work under my direction in the Department of Public Health, 300 in number. During the past two years candidates from Bedford College for Women and certain other Training Centres have made a practice of asking the London County Council Committee, and Dr. Hamer, chief Medical Officer, to allow students to gain practical experience by going round with the School Nurse Staff and assisting in all the branches of the work, and a certificate is required showing satisfactory attendance before they can enter for the Health Visitor's examination of the Ministry of Health. Already some students from various countries who have been taking courses of lectures on Public Health at Bedford College, London, have in this way gained useful experience, and it seems to me a pity that the Nurses' National Councils have not got a small International Committee to which such students could apply and who would make the arrangements with the National Council's Committee for such post-graduate work.

A knowledge of languages is needed to make this work easier, and greater freedom and smaller expenses in travelling.

It is obvious that the adoption of an International standard of Nursing Education would greatly facilitate the interchange of nursing students in the hospitals of the various countries, because their nursing knowledge would be a known quantity.

As is indicated in our programme my remarks are intended as introductory only, to what must be of very great value—a full discussion of this subject.

We shall do well in our discussion to keep before us the fundamental matters so well indicated by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the Watchword (*Aspiration*), under which we have been working since 1912, that we "walk worthily, so that those to whom we minister may discern the fineness of motive which inspires our vocation, and the

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