

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES. SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

Leeds authorities are not disposed to endorse the criticism of the standard of training for nurses defined by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, expressed by Dr. Yeoman, to which we referred last week. The *Yorkshire Evening Post* points out that the new Syllabus, which is for a period of three years' training, has already been adopted at the Leeds General Infirmary, and the standard of efficiency required is considered to be nothing more than essential.

"I do not think the General Nursing Council are asking too much at all," remarked Miss Innes, the Matron of the Leeds General Infirmary. "A period of three years is rather short, and I think rather more time might be allowed to prevent the encroachment of the theoretical part of the training upon the hours which ought to be devoted to practical work.

"We train for four years here, and get what is required by the General Nursing Council into about three and a half years. Everything in the Syllabus is necessary, and the training is not too difficult for the well-educated, intelligent girls needed to-day in the nursing profession."

A secondary school standard of education is regarded as essential by the Leeds General Infirmary for girls who desire training in the institution. The applicants are of a very good type, and some of those in training at present have previously matriculated. All have to pass a preliminary examination, after a course of lectures lasting two months in the Infirmary training school.

The Infirmary has always given its nurses a very thorough training on the practical side, and it is fortunate in having the very valuable help of the Leeds University and Medical School, whose professors and lecturers assist in the education of the nurses.

Botany is not taught at the Infirmary, but knowledge of the subject is expected from all girls with a secondary education.

Knowledge of the metric system is essential, because so many measurements of medicine are made by it.

The York Board of Guardians have decided unanimously to send a strong protest to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and the Ministry of Health, in reference to the approval by the Council of a regulation, that to be recognised as a complete training school a General or Poor Law Hospital must have at least one resident medical officer. Mr. C. Judson pointed out that if they had no resident medical officer they could not have any probationer nurses. He thought it a high handed piece of work of the General Nursing Council to try to force such a provision upon the Ministry.

Why not unanimously decide to appoint a Resident Medical Officer.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

NURSING IN BELGIUM.*

(concluded)

During the War.

Work of the Nursing Schools.—The "Ecole Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées," now called "Ecole Edith Cavell," in memory of its martyr matron, has given 33 certificates to the pupils during the war.

Twelve certificated nurses have crossed the frontier and have joined the Ambulance of the Ocean at La Panne and the Labour Hospital.

Twenty-two nurses worked five hospitals for infectious diseases in 1918.

They were especially efficient at Nivelles and Limelette.

Madame Depage, member of the School Committee, perished in the sinking of the "Lusitania."

The School Saint-Camille trained 83 nurses, who were qualified.

Forty-two nurses crossed the frontier to join the army and the Hospital Elisabeth at Poperinghe, organised and directed by the school.

Twenty-two nurses worked in four hospitals for influenza, especially at Dongelberg and Rixensart.

Four nurses died from infectious diseases contracted in the fulfilment of their duties.

Stuyvenberg School went on training nurses and sending them to the different relief work, where their help was needed.

Sint Berlindischool had to interrupt the courses from 1914 until 1916.

From 1916 on the student nurses were trained in three hospitals of Antwerp and the neighbourhood.

Ecole professionnelle provinciale pour infirmières at Charleroi:

Two nurses died from influenza and typhoid contracted in the hospitals.

During the war the Belgian Red Cross organised further studies with training in hospitals and dispensaries.

After the War.

The war, which upset so grievously the economic and social conditions of life, obliged a great number of well-educated women to earn their own living.

The nurse's career opened a new outlook for them, and the various specialisations allowed each to choose her own sphere in it.

A great number of young girls, who had worked in the ambulances, wished to continue or to devote themselves to relief work.

The Home Office decided that the military nurses, who had done at least two years' service in the ambulances, should be allowed to pass an examination to obtain a hospital nurse's diploma.

The contact with foreign nurses, the forced resi-

* Report presented at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Copenhagen by Mlle. la Comtesse Louise d'Ursel.

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