

THE CONFERENCE.

In opening the Conference the Chairman mentioned that the Syllabus was a Draft only, and had not been submitted to the General Nursing Council, as it was considered preferable for it to be considered by the Council together with any criticisms made by the Conference.

The Chairman said that some suggestions had been sent in which were in the nature of Amendments, and he would submit these in the proper place. He ruled out of order a protest from a member of the audience as to the drastic nature of the Syllabus of Training.

The Preface.

The Chairman pointed out that the Preface was divided into two Clauses:—

1. A Nurse presenting herself for Examination may be questioned on any of the subjects contained in the Schedule, including those on the Chart attached to the Syllabus of Training.
2. When the examination is divided into two parts, the first examination will cover the subjects of Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene.

A ONE PORTAL EXAMINATION.

The first amendment was moved by DR. WOLSELEY LEWIS (Medical Superintendent of the Kent County Mental Hospital), viz., that the examination be divided into two parts; the first examination, covering the subjects of Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, to be the preliminary examination for admission to the Register or any Supplementary Register. Training for this examination may be taken at any hospital (general, mental, fever, or children's) certified by the General Nursing Council as affording proper facilities. The speaker said the object of his proposal was that there should be a one portal system, and this represented the minimum knowledge which any nurse in any branch must possess. It would have the desirable effect of breaking down the barriers between one branch of nursing and another, and would tend to carry out the main object of the Nurses' Registration Act.

DR. WOLSELEY LEWIS said that he was more particularly concerned with the Mental Nurse, about whom there was much misconception, and she might be regarded as the Cinderella of the profession, although her work was most responsible. Though he was present for the weaker sister, he asked for justice, for opportunity, so that she might realize her ideals, might submit herself to the same preliminary examination as other nurses. He was particularly anxious that the General Nursing Council should not shut the door of opportunity in the face of the Mental Nurse.

This was seconded by DR. NAPIER PEARNS (Carse Hill Mental Hospital, Coulsdon).

MR. H. J. NASH, who desired to say something on the subject of fever nursing, was invited by the Chairman to write a letter which could be placed before the General Nursing Council at its meeting next week.

MR. PARSONS supported the proposal for a

preliminary examination. Many nurses at the present day could not pass the fifth standard. If they were unable to pass the first examination there would be no use in keeping them to the end of the three years' training.

DR. CANDLER (Devon and Exeter Hospital), supported the amendment.

MISS LLOYD-STILL (Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee) said that the Committee had this preliminary examination in its mind, but considered it should be reserved for the future. It thought it better not to force it for the moment, but it was its earnest wish to have it. In reference to the Syllabus of Training, Miss Lloyd-Still said that it was intended for the first year that instruction in connection with it should be given by a Sister-Tutor in terms which the probationer could grasp.

A representative from the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, said he rather wondered what sort of nurses those places must have which had been described by a former speaker. He did not know what the voluntary hospitals were like, but he did know that there was nothing in the Syllabus to which the Poor-Law Hospitals need take exception. It surprised him that men were there to say that their nurses could not pass the fifth and sixth standards. One of their nurses at Edmonton had just gained the Diploma in Nursing given by the Leeds University.

THE REV. —. BARNES (Poor-Law Unions Association) said the Syllabus contained nothing that Poor-Law Institutions had not been teaching for a long time. If nurses did not know these things then they ought to be taught them.

MISS LLOYD-STILL, in reply to a question concerning the recognition of hospitals of 50 to 100 beds as training schools said that when the affiliation of schools was inaugurated there would be no difficulty at all.

MISS E. M. MUSSON (Matron, General Hospital, Birmingham) said that to divide the examination into two parts *now* would delay candidates being sent up, as hospitals had been teaching their probationers on the Syllabus, on the understanding that there would be a final examination only.

A question was asked as to how long a time must elapse if a nurse were rejected before she could sit for the examination again.

THE CHAIRMAN said that question had not been settled.

MISS POTE HUNT (Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester) asked whether, if an examination were taken during training the probationer could take it at the hospital, or whether she would have to attend at a centre.

THE CHAIRMAN said many centres would have to be arranged.

MISS LLOYD-STILL also said the candidate would have to attend at the nearest centre to take the first part of the examination, but for the moment there would only be one examination.

MISS COX-DAVIES said that the last speaker had touched on the exact point. The hospitals were filled with sick people who had to be nursed.

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