

were that there should be at least one Sister-Tutor and not less than thirty probationers always in training.

(b) The Mental Hospitals preparing candidates for the Final Examination in Mental Nursing, and it was suggested that these hospitals should have at least 500 beds, with an admission rate of 100 per annum.

It was further suggested that hospitals should group themselves together on the understanding that one hospital recognised as a complete training school shall supply nurses to the other hospitals of the group after they have passed the Preliminary Examinations.

Your Committee has given careful consideration to these suggestions. It, however, queries whether it is desirable at the present time to attempt any sub-division of Mental Hospitals into groups. It also inclined to the opinion that the Council would be unwise to make the recognition of a Training School depend either upon the number of beds or the number of nurses in training, as these considerations do not necessarily provide a trustworthy criterion of the quality of training given.

Another point discussed at the Conference was the unequal position of nurses in General and Mental Hospitals respectively, who having passed the Preliminary Examination do not complete their training. In one case the nurse beginning in a Mental Hospital can obtain the General Certificate in four years, whereas in the other the nurse beginning in a General Hospital cannot obtain the Mental Certificate under five years. There was a general expression of opinion that it was undesirable in either case to encourage nurses to break their training.

Your Committee felt that the Conference was most helpful, but does not at present feel that it is in a position to make any definite recommendation in respect to the recognition of training schools for Mental Nurses.

III. REPORTED.—In discussing the matters referred to in the previous Minute the Committee suggest that a new questionnaire be sent round to Mental Hospitals in order to ascertain how far the hospitals consider that they are able to provide the prescribed training. A recommendation on this matter will be made to a future meeting of the Council.

IV. REPORTED.—That the Committee have been informed that well-trained and well-educated Mental Nurses have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining training in General Hospitals. It will be remembered that a letter was presented to the Council by Mr. Keene, Clerk to the London County Council, pointing out the desire on the part of the London County Council that Mental Nurses should obtain general training, and Rule 12 (A) (7) was passed by the Council and is now before the Minister of Health to give effect to this desire that Mental Nurses should be doubly qualified. In order to facilitate this end, which means so much to Mental Nursing generally, the

Mental Nursing Committee submit the following resolution:—

Recommendation 11.

"That the Council urge on the governing authorities of General Hospitals the importance of facilities being given to Registered Mental Nurses for obtaining the two years' course in training in General Nursing required for admission to the General Register."

V. REPORTED.—*Fees for Examinations.*—Some consideration was given to the question of fees payable by Mental Nurses. The Committee feel unable to express any opinion until they know more of the requirements of the Council in respect to the examinations.

VI. REPORTED.—The Committee think it possible that in some Mental Hospitals, especially those in isolated and remote parts of the country, Mental Nurses may not have realised their position under the Nurses' Registration Act. It considers it desirable that circular letters be sent to all Mental Hospitals addressed to the Medical Superintendent, with enclosures to the Matron and the Chief Male Nurse, and submit the following recommendation:—

Recommendation 12.

"That circular letters be sent to all Mental Hospitals reminding (a) Existing Nurses that they must apply for registration before July 14th, 1923, on which date the period of grace expires; (b) Intermediate Nurses that all nurses who have completed their training since November 1st, 1919, and before July 14th, 1925, are eligible for registration on producing evidence of training and experience; and (c) informing nurses that after this date—July, 1925—no nurses can be entered on the Register who have not passed the State Examination."

Discussion.

In moving that the report be received, DR. BEDFORD PIERCE said he realised that it was difficult to fit in short courses for nurses; matrons preferred raw material to train, and there was the status of the nurses to be considered, but with goodwill on both sides he thought the difficulties could be overcome.

In moving the adoption of *Recommendation 11*, DR. BEDFORD PIERCE appealed to some of the larger and more influential hospitals to offer facilities to mental nurses to obtain training in general nursing.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP said that of all the branches of nursing which she hoped would be benefitted by Registration, Mental nursing, which was the Cinderella of the nursing profession, came first. She hoped facilities would be given by the general hospitals for training mental nurses.

Recommendation 11 was then agreed.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE then said that the Recommendation only expressed an opinion, and it was referred to the Education Committee, with instructions to do what they thought fit to carry it into effect.

The Report was then approved.

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