

THE ETHICS OF CO-OPERATION.

A Superintendent of a Private Nurses' Co-operation asks us:—

“Can nothing be done to teach private nurses what *co-operation* means? For instance, a young nurse comes up to London from the country, or Scotland or Ireland. She knows no one—no doctors. Through the Co-operation of which she is a member she is introduced to clients of the Society, and medical practitioners. Of course, if she is worth her salt she makes friends amongst her employers. She is asked for by friends of a former patient—and this, of course, is as it should be. But I have often heard a nurse claim this patient as ‘my patient,’ failing to realise that it was on the introduction of the ‘Co’ that she came into contact with the new call. Then another thing is, in spite of a rule that the only address for calls must be that of the Society’s Office, ‘Co-op’ nurses give their personal addresses to doctors to whom the ‘Co-op’ has introduced them, so that they may receive personal calls, with the result that, if engaged, the doctor may go elsewhere, or the manager of the Home offers a nurse in residence, who pays her a percentage. This is most unfair on fellow-members of the ‘Co-op,’ who should act together for the general benefit, and not merely individual success. Again, until Mr. Walshe, J.P., contested the matter in a Court of Law, and got a verdict in favour of honest dealing, many nurses on chronic cases resigned from the ‘Co-op’ which found them the case, and took the case and fees for themselves—really a very dishonest action.”

We think private nurses who are members of Co-operations will realise that all these things do happen amongst their colleagues from time to time. To protect the very large majority of members of Societies who scrupulously maintain a high standard of professional ethics, and conduct, we recommend that the Rules to which members of Co-operations agree to conform, before being accepted as members, should incorporate co-operative principles, that they should be carefully explained to applicants, and that should such Rules be broken, the penalty should be enforced. Ignorance and selfishness are usually to blame for unprofessional conduct, and both should be reduced to a minimum if “co-operation” is to effect the good of the

whole. Selfish patients are often to blame for encouraging nurses to act dishonourably towards their Societies and their colleagues, by taking the cases for themselves, and depriving their colleagues of the percentage which is their right, in support of the general expenses of the Society, for which all are responsible.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF NURSES AT LEEDS.

We recently published the names of the successful prize-winners and honours class of the pupil probationers at the General Infirmary, Leeds. The whole of the Examination Lists, however, are full of interest and hopefulness, for one who, like ourselves, has been working for the last forty years to raise the standard of nursing education.

We note that five pupils trained at the Infirmary have now gained the Diploma in Nursing given by the University of Leeds, and one nurse, Miss Constantia E. Overton, D.N., passed with honours in the Final Examination at the Infirmary, thirteen others passing successfully.

We like the system of grading the candidates in the class examinations under the headings Pass (with distinction where merited); Honours; and First Class Honours; both because credit is thus given where credit is due, and also because it is an incentive to hard work on the part of the probationers.

The Class Examinations embrace: (1) The Principles and Practice of Nursing; (2) Elementary Anatomy and Physiology; (3) Elementary Medicine; (4) Elementary Surgery; (5) Elementary Gynæcology; (6) Hygiene; (7) Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. It will be seen, therefore, that the course is a comprehensive one.

The Nurses' Committee includes Mr. T. L. Taylor, Chairman of the Board; Miss Innes, R.R.C., D.N. (Leeds), Lady Superintendent; Professor Kay Jamieson, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Mr. Charles Lupton, and four medical men. The Lecturers for 1922 included the Lady Superintendent, Miss Moore, Sister Tutor, Miss Blakesley, D.N., Assistant Sister-Tutor, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Members of the Medical Staff.

The Examiners were:—*For the Lectures' Courses*—The Lecturers, with the Examiners for the Final Examinations. *For the Final Examinations*—Miss Hills, R.R.C., Royal Infirmary, Halifax, Dr. Maxwell Telling, and Mr. H. Collinson. *For the Pupil Probationers*—The Sister-Tutors, the Lady Superintendent, and Dr. Maxwell Telling. Thus for the final Examination the Examiners were a matron unconnected with the Infirmary and two medical men who were not lecturers to the nurses.

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