

Applications for Registration.

The applications for Registration, otherwise than by examination approved by the Council to November 19th, 1926, have been 52,280. For approval on December 17th, 1926, 6. Applications for Registration by Examination, 5,311. Passed, 4,201. Approved to November 19th, 1926, 4,132. For Approval December 17th, 1926, 3. Of those remaining 39 were under age and the training of 27 was incomplete.

The applications of the 9 applicants for approval on December 17th were taken *in camera*.

Education and Examination.

The Education and Examination Committee recommended that the following Hospitals be approved as complete Training Schools for Nurses:—Horton Infirmary, Peace Memorial Hospital, Banbury, Hammersmith Hospital, London, W., Sherburn Hospital, Co. Durham, Rochford Hospital, and Derby Union Hospital; also the Cornelia Hospital, Poole, provisionally for one year from December 17th, 1926.

Also that the following Hospitals be approved as Training Schools which, in combination with other public hospitals, give complete training under Section 1 (2) of the Scheme of Training:—Jersey General Dispensary and Infirmary, in affiliation with Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth, and the Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, Maida Vale, London, in affiliation with Royal Northern Hospital, London.

That the provisional approval granted to the Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital be extended for a period of one year from January 1st, 1927.

The recommendations were approved.

IMPERSONATION OF EXAMINATION CANDIDATE.

The Committee reported that they had considered the case of two candidates for the October, 1926, State Examinations, one of whom was found to be impersonating her sister, who allowed herself to be so impersonated. The Committee recommended: "That these two candidates, whose names are on record in the Offices of the Council, be not admitted to any future State Examination, and the recommendation was approved."

REPORTS OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

1.—Report on the Preliminary Examinations.

The general standard reached by the candidates in the Preliminary examinations is good, showing, that on the whole, Probationer Nurses in all parts of the country are being well taught, and the scope of the instruction is well adapted to the needs of intelligent nursing.

In hygiene and nursing, the Examiners observe that many candidates appear unable to apply practically the theoretical information which they have learnt correctly.

As a rule, candidates who fail to reach the pass mark give obvious evidence of lack of general education; they can neither write nor spell; their composition is bad, and they have no power of expressing themselves.

Occasionally, however, it is apparent that an intelligent educated candidate who is capable of clear expression has received no instruction in the subjects of the examination. This applies specially to anatomy and physiology. There may be difficulty in certain hospitals in finding competent teachers, since the supply of Sister-Tutors is probably not yet equal to the demand.

Other explanations may be that certain hospitals do not regard a knowledge of anatomy and physiology as essential to a Nurse's training, or that they cannot for reasons of expense allow sufficient time in the Probationer's curriculum for study.

In the written examination, candidates often lose marks through disregard of the printed instructions. They answer more than the requisite number of questions, fail to begin each answer on a fresh sheet, and write on the margins of the paper. Moreover, they do not know how to avoid "irrelevant matter."

11.—Report on the Final Examinations.

(A) GENERAL NURSES AND MALE NURSES.

The most striking points are:—

The very high average standard of the writing, spelling and general construction shown; it is very rare to find a paper difficult to read.

The very varying degree of knowledge shown definitely indicating the character of the teaching that each Nurse or group of Nurses has received; some groups seem to have had little or no real teaching. It is also apparent that the answers set down are to a large extent the result of notes committed to memory, the same phrase being repeated by many; also, there is an apparent use of text books not up to date.

Some Nurses discuss the nursing of a case from actual experience in the wards, and this is the object most desired. The personal touch is easily recognised and should be encouraged.

On the whole, it is not considered, from experience or from conversation with the Nurses themselves, that too much medical or surgical knowledge is demanded from them.

To improve the examination, better clinical teaching of the Nurses is required.

The general standard of knowledge shown in the written surgical part of the examination was satisfactory, but there were no papers of really remarkable merit.

As far as can be judged from a written paper, the majority of the candidates have a sound knowledge of practical nursing, which is after all, the most important attribute of a good Nurse. It is, perhaps, permissible to observe, however, that many of the written answers suggest that methods of nursing, which are more time-honoured than efficient, are being perpetuated by over-close adherence to the orthodox teaching.

The answers, on the whole, showed a slightly improved standard, but a very generous marking is required to keep the percentage of failures at a reasonable proportion.

Candidates dealt in generalities and evaded the practical issues, as if teaching had been given, but observation and experience were lacking.

(B) SICK CHILDREN'S NURSES.

Teaching.

The Board finds that, in general, Nurses pay too much attention to the theory in their answers. They are apt to forget the importance of impressing the Examiners with their knowledge of the simple practical details which are so essential to good nursing, e.g., doses of drugs will be given; while bed-making, bathing, &c., will be forgotten.

More attention should be paid to the careful observation and comfort of the patient.

Possibly this is because the teaching of theory is overstressed in the schools. The Board feels that the intimate detailed training given by a good Ward Sister to the Probationer must always hold first place in the Nurses' education.

In the medical section of the examination, the answers received would seem to show that a proportion of the candidates have not received a well-balanced training. It frequently happens that a candidate who shows a good practical detailed knowledge in connection with the baby has difficulty with the questions dealing with the medical diseases of older children, and *vice versa*. It is essential that a Children's Nurse should be well trained in both branches, and especially should it be impossible for a Nurse to hold the children's certificate who has had little or no practical experience with babies.

(C) FEVER NURSES.

The examination of candidates by a central authority has, in the opinion of the Examiners, stimulated interest in the teaching and training of Nurses.

(D) MENTAL NURSES.

The numbers entering have been disappointing, and the general standard of pass in the earlier examinations was only average. This standard appears to be improving.

Mental Nursing.

The Mental Nursing Committee reported that it had considered a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association recommending certain additions to the Equipment List for the Final Examination for Mental Nurses. It was decided to add certain of the items mentioned in the Equipment List.

Also that at a Joint Meeting with the Advisory Com-

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