

the case of architects who are seeking registration. I believe that registration has been the chief factor in bringing about the enormous improvement in the personnel of nurses—and registration presupposes a high standard of training. How high that standard is may be gauged by inspection of the syllabus prescribed for examination of nurses by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Let us glance at the headings of the syllabus of 1926. A very detailed programme is laid down for examination in (1) elementary anatomy and physiology; (2) hygiene; (3) theory and practice of nursing; (4) materia medica and therapeutics, including the very important and much neglected subject of diet; (5) medical nursing, including infectious fevers; (6) surgical nursing. By the Act of 1919, under which registration was effected, the General Nursing Council "is directed to make rules requiring as a condition of the admission of any person to the register that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and shall possess the prescribed experience in the nursing of the sick—

requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out either in an institution approved by the Council in that behalf or in the service of the Admiralty, the Army Council, or the Air Council, and the Council is directed to make rules for regulating the conduct of any examinations which may be prescribed as a condition of admission to the register, and any matters ancillary to or connected with any such examination."

The Minister of Health, speaking at Birmingham on July 8, suggested that the Universities might grant a diploma in nursing in the higher standard of training. He is evidently unaware that the University of London, always ready to blaze new trails, has already instituted such a diploma. Upon the Committee of Management for this diploma, besides medical members, there is a large proportion of matrons from the leading London hospitals, and the standard is a very high one, as may be estimated from an inspection of the syllabus. The first examination is due to be held next autumn, and when it becomes widely known it is highly probable that it will be a very popular course of training. Doubtless this diploma will be accepted as a qualification in itself by the General Nursing Council.

Unfortunately the courses of training thus sketched are at present not compulsory, but advisory only, and there is no adequate inspection provided of the schools for training nurses, as there is for medical schools, so that it becomes impossible to lay down or to maintain standards of efficiency. These are defects which will probably be rectified, and which certainly ought to be rectified, in the near future.

The importance of theoretical as well as practical teaching can hardly be too strongly emphasised at the present day, when medicine has moved nearer and nearer to becoming an exact science at the same time as it has so enormously increased its scope as an art. Every doctor knows that he owes his success, either as a physician, or perhaps still more as a surgeon, very largely to the assistance which the trained nurses can now supply; he can give orders with the certainty that their meaning and implications are fully understood. Medical training in these latter years has become enormously lengthened as a result of the development of knowledge in medicine. I have established from the inspection of University and other examinations the fact that it is practically impossible for a medical student to reach qualification under from six to seven years of preparation. Nurses, of course, do not need the detailed knowledge of theory required for medical students. I hope, indeed, that those responsible for training nurses will avoid any appearance of competition with medical women who have to undertake the longer course and who must have the responsibility which medical

qualification alone can give. It is a commonplace that the best trained nurses are the least anxious to usurp the functions and the authority of the qualified medical man or woman. But a certain minimum of theoretical knowledge is absolutely indispensable if nurses are to carry out medical directions with intelligence, and with safety to the sick, of whom they are in responsible charge in the absence of the medical attendant. They supplement the doctor, but do not replace him, and in this character differ absolutely from the unqualified charlatan who is flooding our society at the present time, for he seeks to diagnose and treat disease with no reference whatever to the trained medical man. Medical men can and do give the warmest support to the movement with which your College is so honourably associated.

I think the public are just beginning to appreciate how much they owe to the nursing profession under its changed conditions. It is particularly delightful to learn that your College has been endowed by an anonymous donor with the munificent sum of £100,000. A circumstance which doubles the value of the gift is the fact that the donor has been content to leave the College to apply this money as it wishes, and no higher compliment could possibly have been paid to the College than this, nor can a greater testimonial be furnished for the wisdom of the donor than that he should have made no conditions with his gift.

I am old-fashioned enough to think that professional bodies concerned with the education and discipline of doctors and of nurses should remain strictly and exclusively professional. I hope that the admirable feature of the British College of Nurses, to which I referred at the opening of my speech, namely, that the control of the College is confined to professional women, themselves exponents of the noble art of nursing, will be consistently maintained.

The Necessity for the Encouragement of the Study of Psychology for Nurses.

Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, C.B.E., M.D., supporting the toast, said:—

My Lady Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Let me in the first place congratulate you, myself and the honourable Nursing Profession, on the presence in the chair of that great and eminent lady, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, known to me in my early days as Miss Manson, the distinguished Matron—until she won a great prize at a lottery and became Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—of my *alma mater*, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she wisely directed the Nursing Department from 1881 to 1887. Without her genius, forethought and perseverance we should not have been here to-night. The State Registration of Nurses would not have been enacted, and the British College of Nurses to-day so generously endowed would not have existed. She was the pioneer and founder of these great movements, and the profession of Nursing as well as suffering humanity will always be indebted to her indefatigable energy and great ability. If I may say so, I regard her as worthy of a place side by side with Florence Nightingale. She has done for nurses what Florence Nightingale did for the patient—raised her status, improved her position and added to the respect paid to her; and in this work she has been ably aided by the great support of Miss Margaret Brey and your able Secretary, Miss Grace R. Hale, R.R.C.

I have not come to bombard you with platitudes, for I know that women believe far less in talk than men do, although it will be admitted they talk far more themselves; but if I may say so without slander, their talk is predominantly personal. They are interested in So-and-So's smart friends or smart frocks, their good looks or the reverse, and their morals or the reverse, and their kindness or unkindness, whilst men talk of their golf, their food, or their dividends! Indeed, when an Englishman is beginning

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