

EMERGENCY AIDS FOR WAR TIME.

SYLLABUS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

In the course of their training at a Hospital they would be given simple talks on nursing, would be taught to cultivate a quiet reassuring manner, and would be required to acquire practical knowledge in:—

1. Bed-making and the method of making patients comfortable.
2. The technique of patients' toilet and disinfection of utensils.
3. The feeding and washing, and blanket bathing of helpless patients.
4. Bandaging and the uses to which splints in common are put.
5. The meaning of asepsis and antisepsis, and the precautions to obtain these.
6. The cleansing and sterilisation of appliances, instruments, bowls, etc.
7. The dressing of wounds by watching and waiting on the trained nurses.
8. The accurate taking of temperature, pulse and respiration of sick patients, not only convalescents.
9. The steps necessary to prevent a patient developing bed sores, or other troubles due to lying in bed.
10. Methods of resuscitation of shocked or collapsed accident cases.
11. The methods adopted in the casualty department for the reception of patients, and the manner in which it is necessary to communicate with relatives, local authorities, police, etc.
12. Taking patients to the operating theatre and being present during operations.

(This will have to be done with great care, and generally only in the later stages of the training).

13. The necessity for tidiness so that ward appliances and equipment can be found quickly in an emergency.

N.B.—Volunteers taking this intensive course of Hospital work are not to be considered as Nurses in training, but only as emergency aids to a Nursing Staff in time of war. It is important that they should understand the Hospital atmosphere and familiarise themselves with—to them—unusual sights and smells and procedures. It would, therefore, be a waste of time to set them to those routine ward duties such as cleaning and polishing, which rightly form part of the basic training of a student nurse. If the Hospital that they attend has a Preliminary Training School, it is suggested that they might spend a short time each day sharing the practical Nursing classes with the pupils in the school.

This Syllabus has naturally been severely criticised by several Matrons and many Nurses in training. Nurses in training are not engaged to do "cleaning and polishing," which according to the Ministry of Health "rightly form part of the basic training of a Student Nurse."

A few more of these howlers and the Student Nurse will evaporate altogether. This comes of excluding professional Nurses from the organisation of emergency nursing services.

Personally we enjoy "polishing and cleaning," and if necessary it would be no "waste of time" for "emergency aids" to undertake such duties. The snobbery of deriding domestic work is pernicious.

NURSING AUXILIARIES.

The following incident took place on the 13th inst. during a visit to our local A.R.P. exhibition.

Nursing Auxiliary Stand—Red Cross Nurse in sole charge.

Nurse: "Madam, can I interest you in becoming a Nursing Auxiliary?"

Visitor: "No thank you."

Nurse: "Madam, you merely attend lectures twice a week for eight weeks, and then you are examined in 'First Aid' and 'Home Nursing.' Providing you pass the examinations it qualifies you for hospital training at (here two prominent local hospitals were named). Then you interview the Matron, and she places you wherever you desire to go. Then by higher examinations, and various lectures you eventually become a 'fully qualified nurse.'"

Visitor: "What is meant by the term 'fully qualified nurse,' does that mean State Registration?"

Nurse: "Yes, certainly, by doing a few hours' voluntary duty, a few days per week for three years, the hard graft, and unpleasant work which is the lot of a hospital nurse, namely, Probationer, is avoided. Then, providing you qualify enough, there is nothing to prevent you from becoming a State Registered Nurse."

Visitor: "Presuming I was not desirous of becoming a State Registered nurse?"

Nurse: "In that case if you took four or five certificates before war broke out then you would be assured of a good position."

Visitor: "Supposing there is no war?"

Nurse: "If you had a few of our certificates you could be assured of a good job, should you like nursing. Hospitals might not employ you, but doctors and lay people would, as they realise the value of our certificates, namely, 'The British Red Cross Society.'"

Incidents were then related how in a certain hospital—Doctor and Sister went round their patients, treatment was written on a pink slip, and given to the patient. These were collected a few only at a time, and the treatment ordered done by the British Red Cross Nurse.

The interview ended with a hearty invitation to attend the Detachment Meeting with a view to learning further advantages of "a Nursing Auxiliary."

D. V. H.

CIVIL NURSING RESERVE FOR SCOTLAND.

Plans for the setting up of a war time civil nursing reserve for Scotland are outlined in a Health Department circular, issued in Edinburgh recently.

There will be three groups—trained nurses and assistant nurses who are available for service in war time, and nursing auxiliaries. The greater part of the reserve will consist of nursing auxiliaries. The minimum age for applicants is 18, and as a rule they should not be admitted over 55, but may be kept on reserve, when trained, up to the age of 65. A condition of enrolment will be to maintain efficiency by taking 12 practices annually, six in first aid and six in hospital or district nursing.

FAREWELL TO MISS DORSEY.

A very large number of friends said good-bye with sincere regret to Miss Nan Dorsey, when she left England on her return to U.S.A., her native land. She has made numerous friends in Europe, where as their guest she has recently made an extensive tour, and will no doubt be renewing happy relations with them from time to time.

FAMOUS SURGEON DIES.

Dr. Charles Horace Mayo, internationally famous surgeon, has died at Rochester, U.S.A., from pneumonia. With his brother he established the Mayo Clinic, one of the finest equipped in the world, with 128 doctors, 500 nurses, and funds exceeding £2,000,000.

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