

is the Test Educational Examination, because it has produced a standard for the masses, and however low that standard is at present, as the years pass it must rise, and it will be largely by this standard of general education that the Nursing Profession will be raised to the level of, and take its place on an equal footing with, other professions. But this education should not be the responsibility of the Nursing Profession, or of the governing bodies of hospitals, it should be the responsibility of the parents and of the schools; but what we must do is to use every influence we can command to secure scholarships to secondary or central schools.

You will remember in the *Life and Work of Amalie Sieveling*, in considering the formation of the Society called "The Friends of the Poor," she records that she had difficulty in obtaining help from among the people of her own rank, and she appealed to those situated in less fortunate circumstances, but this did not prove satisfactory, and she says:—

"I thought at first that they would understand the needs of the poor; but now I am certain that a wider culture contributes much to solidity of judgment."

This equality with other professions will never be reached by the Nursing Profession only setting out programmes of education for the nurse in training; the suitability of the candidate is most important.

So given, an educated intelligent girl of the central preliminary training school described by Miss Hillyers, would produce the only means of a certain suitable supply.

Once these schools are established, all hospitals could be supplied, and they would prevent an undesirable social grading, such as is likely to occur where there are nurses in the same hospital from secondary and elementary schools, a condition very likely to arise from the arrangement lately made by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in the Division of the Preliminary State Examination; one must remember that the number of candidates from secondary schools is not sufficient to supply all hospitals, so the much greater supply comes from elementary schools.

The second necessary thing for the Nursing Profession is to secure the position of the Ward Sister. We cannot take our desired place until there is more acknowledgment and co-operation from the Medical Profession.

A point which I consider is a weakness in the Nursing Profession and one which has had considerable effect upon the training of late years is that better paid posts in hospitals are either administrative or teaching, and that to obtain a higher salary women so often have to leave their practical work which is to most of them very satisfying, and, after all, where is there greater necessity for administrative and teaching ability than in the Ward Sister.

It has been said by a doctor that "A combination of education and experience is necessary to acquire the capacity of observing changes in the progress of disease," therefore, it is absolutely essential to the training that in each hospital a certain percentage of Ward Sisters' posts should be such that they will support and attract older women who can pass on their experience to nurses in training.

So before programmes are set out to attract girls into the Nursing Profession—a standard of general education must be demanded and nothing less than that standard accepted in prospective candidates, and an acknowledgment, that we are partners with the Medical Profession in the care of the sick, and until we have this recognition we have no defined position to offer to girls of good education.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR.

The Chairman, in throwing open the Discussion, remarked that although the General Nursing Council for England and

Wales did not specify the actual time to be spent in nursing children, all candidates for its Examination must have had experience of nursing children either in children's or general wards, otherwise they would not be eligible to enter for its Examination.

MRS. IRIS BROOK, the Guild of Nurses, said she was convinced of one thing, namely, that there should be a complete nationalised hospital service, and Central Training Schools. She was glad there was general agreement about the necessity for the extension of training. Training was wrong to-day, nurses were not having all the variety of experience they should. The papers presented had been from the standpoint of the voluntary hospitals, but the municipal hospitals were also playing an important part. Sanatorium experience, and the latest instruction as to the treatment and nursing of rheumatism were valuable. There should be more co-operation between the medical and nursing professions.

MISS ASHFORD, Matron of the Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans, speaking of mental nurses, referred to the difficulty in regard to the theoretical training of nurses. Many hospitals did not provide training in accordance with the syllabus of the General Nursing Councils. Others prepared their pupils both for the examinations of the General Nursing Councils and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and the rival examinations presented a great problem, with resulting confusion to the nurses.

MISS A. E. MERRY, President, Royal Infirmary, Bradford, Nurses' League, said that the question of an eight hours' day for nurses, such as was usual in America, was chiefly a financial problem. If it were possible to arrange it, it would be more possible for Matrons to organise a more comprehensive training.

Another speaker said that a Ward Sister's position was often taken as a means to an end, a stepping-stone to a higher and better-paid position. A Sister should have had a good general education and should possess the maternal instinct, and she would find the position a very satisfying one.

There was the problem of nurses who had only had an elementary education. They would be well advised to take up other branches of work.

MRS. M. C. LEDIARD, President of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, Matron of the Middlesex Colony, Shenley, Herts, said that the Matrons of Mental Hospitals required the help of those of General Hospitals.

MISS PARKIN, Matron of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, expressed the view that girls from the depressed areas had not the right background to make them suitable for training as nurses.

MISS NELSON, Matron of the General Hospital, Northampton, expressed approval of preliminary training schools. She advocated co-operation between general hospitals which had mainly surgical beds and hospitals under municipal authorities willing to co-operate. She thought that three months' gynaecological work should be included in the training curriculum.

MISS M. A. GULLAN advocated a wider basis of training, which, she said, was being considered by the College of Nursing, to be extended over four years.

MRS. IRIS BROOK protested against the snobbery of discriminating against girls entering hospitals as probationers from the depressed areas.

THE CHAIRMAN, at the close of the session, said that she wished politely but definitely to express her resentment at the charge of snobbery brought against nurses who thought girls from the depressed areas were for the most part unsuitable as probationers. Matrons and nurses desired to help suitable applicants wherever they might come from.

MISS BREAY sympathised with the Matrons of mental hospitals in the difficult position in which they found themselves. She believed she was right in thinking that

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