

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 2122. Vol. 93.

MAY, 1945.

Price Sevenpence.

## EDITORIAL.

We have received from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales documents which have been circulated to the authorities responsible for the planning, building, and equipping of hospitals.

At first glance it may be surmised that such activities are none of the business of the Council; but reflection will convince the thoughtful reader that as this Council is the statutory body appointed to administer the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, and certain parts of the Nurses Act, 1943, it is responsible for the approval of hospitals as training schools for nurses. In considering the question as to whether a hospital may be approved as a training school, the General Nursing Council has to consider not only whether the teaching staff is adequate, the rooms and the apparatus for teaching available, but also whether the practice of Nursing as carried on in the hospital is of a standard which would justify the approval of the hospital as a training school. It is also further necessary to ensure that the circumstances of the nurse's life include measures for the safeguarding and maintenance of her health during the period of training which is probably the most difficult stage of her career.

It is hoped that in the adaptation of existing buildings and in the erection of new hospitals it will be borne in mind that the future of Nursing is bound up with the training of the student nurse.

### MEMORANDUM REGARDING PLANNING, BUILDING, AND EQUIPPING OF HOSPITALS.

The suggestions which follow have been drawn up as an indication of the standards which should be aimed at by hospitals seeking recognition as approved training schools for nurses, and fall under the headings:—

(1) The hospital; (2) Ward units; (3) Prevention of cross-infection; (4) Ward annexes; (5) Sanitary annexes. Many of the suggestions as to constitution of wards, corridors, lifts, stairs are very practical. It is recommended that an overall unit for one Sister should contain not more than 25 beds; this unit may be divided into one single ward of, say, 20 beds, with 5 single rooms, or other variants to suit special conditions. The wards should be provided with balconies, adequately lit and heated; these should be used solely as balconies, and not as an extension of the ward. The distance between the bed centres should be not less than 10 ft. as an absolute minimum. Every bed should be provided with a detachable light. The suggestions for the prevention of cross-infection are specially valuable. For instance, the immediate removal of soiled linen

from the ward without its being sorted by nurses; external hoists, lifts and shutles for soiled linen, soiled dressings, and ward refuse situated near sluice-room to avoid these being carried by porters through wards and hospital; provision for the sterilisation of all feeding, toilet, and sanitary articles used in common by patients; liberal provision for hand washing in wards.

Ward annexes should include: Sister's room, ward kitchens; a service—opening from the kitchen into the corridor. The children's ward—a milk room and special equipment for preparation and storage of feeds and bottles. Linen-room—hot-air cupboards or radiator for warming sheets and blankets; patients' sitting-room with fires, waiting-room for patients' visitors, with lavatory and w.c.; and a dozen other practical suggestions, including baths and shampoo-rooms.

### Nursing Staff Accommodation.

Under this heading the Council is on its native heath, and should all its recommendations be adopted one wonders if vacancies would ever occur.

### Nurses' Home.

In the Nurses' Home the following facilities should be provided:—

The nurses' quarters should be sited with due regard for the convenience, comfort and health of the residents.

Single bedrooms (*minimum* 100 sq. ft.), basin with running hot and cold water, adequate heating and lighting, with light and switch over beds; adequate furniture to include bookcase, table for writing and easy chair.

Bed sitting-rooms (*minimum* 140 sq. ft.) for trained nursing staff.

Flats or adequate units for senior administrative nursing staff.

Night nurses' quarters in a secluded and quiet part of the Home.

Accommodation for trained nurses as far as possible separate from the quarters for student nurses.

Nurses' sick bay, with single bedrooms, sitting-dining-room, consulting-room and treatment-room; Sister's office—a surgery attached. Special accommodation should also be earmarked for nurses in the hospital. (If more convenient, all accommodation for sick nurses could be provided in the hospital).

A minimum of one bathroom to every five bedrooms.

Night lighting in the corridors.

Separate accommodation for hair washing and drying, with services of a hairdresser.

A minimum of one w.c. to every five bedrooms (separate from bathrooms).

Sanitary quarters in blocks and buffered.

An incinerator on each floor.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)