

Occasional Notes.

**THE TRAINING AND EXAMINATION OF
MENTAL NURSES.****REPORT ON QUESTIONNAIRE.****INTRODUCTION.**

THE object of issuing the questionnaire (dated January, 1928), to the Recognized Training Schools was two-fold. On the one hand, should the General Nursing Councils require alterations in the Association's Regulations for the Training and Examination of Mental Nurses before accepting the Association's Nursing Certificate for registration, the question would arise in what directions and how far the Association could go towards satisfying the General Nursing Councils. On the other hand, information direct from the Recognized Training Schools was desired as to possible improvements in the Association's Regulations, and it was possible that this might assist towards the solution of the former.

With this twofold object in view questions were asked on the following matters :

(a) How far the holding of a certificate of proficiency in mental nursing had become compulsory before a nurse could be graded as a staff nurse, and the source of the certificate recognized for this purpose.

The answers to these questions would show the need, apart from the question of State registration, for an examining body to meet this requirement, and would also have a bearing on the solution of the question raised in (b).

(b) The reasons why candidates were not entering for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations. They would naturally be of two kinds, those personal to the candidate and those relating to the Training Schools.

Reasons substantial in nature and extent would not be matters upon which the Association could give way in any negotiations with the General Nursing Councils.

To throw light on this matter inquiries were made in the following directions:

A question was put in order to ascertain how many hospitals were not recognized as Training Schools by the General Nursing Councils. Obviously these hospitals had no call to prepare candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations.

Those hospitals recognized by the General Nursing Councils, but which did not prepare candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, were asked to state the reason why.

Definite information was sought on circumstances known to operate against candidates entering for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, such as the distance from hospital to the examination centre, travelling and other expenses incurred by attendance at examination centres, the number of candidates a hospital could spare to attend at centres and how far this would limit the number as against the number who could attend if the examination were held locally.

In the General Nursing Councils' scheme the written examination may be held locally if 25 candidates can be guaranteed. It was important to know how many hospitals were unable to avail themselves of this arrangement.

The question was also asked whether, granted the General Nursing Councils' scheme were adopted, the hospital could give the candidates six months' training in bedside nursing prior to entering for the Preliminary Examination [which training would be needed in the first 12-18 months of service]. Although this training may be taken any time before entering for the Final Examination, without it candidates would be handicapped at the Preliminary Examination.

(c) One well-known objection to the General Nursing Councils' Preliminary Examination is that candidates are not examined in regard to "General Duties" and "Accidents and Emergencies."

The Association holds that the sooner nurses in mental hospitals are trained in these subjects the better—indeed, without an adequate knowledge of them a nurse might be a source of danger. Did those hospitals training for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations postpone this instruction until the Preliminary Examination had been passed?

(d) The opposition to the resolution debated on November 17, 1927, was judged to be the fear that mental nurses might be excluded from the one-portal of entry afforded by the State to the nursing profession, and which it was said offered every nurse an equal status. It seemed therefore important to know exactly the attitude of the Training Schools on this matter. It must be remembered that the one-portal idea was put forward after the General Nursing Councils had been established, and the Association's views regarding it were not ascertained, though the one-portal idea appears to have originated with one, if not two, members of the Association. An appropriate question on this matter was therefore included in the questionnaire.

(e) The point was raised at a meeting of the Association, as far back as 1923, by a member that the Preliminary Examinations of the Association and of the General Nursing Councils might be held at the same time and place or be made interchangeable. He suggested that it would be advantageous to the general nurse if she were required to have an elementary knowledge of mental disorder and of the nursing of it. If this and "First Aid" were included in the subjects for the General Nursing Councils' Preliminary Examination, it might lead to an agreement. A question was therefore put to ascertain the views of the Association on this.

GENERAL SUMMARY AND COMMENTS.

The questionnaire was issued to Recognized Training Schools in:

England and Wales	125
Scotland	31
Ireland	27
Total	183

Reports were returned from:

England and Wales	89
Scotland	19
Ireland	10
Total	118

Question.—*Whether a certificate of proficiency in mental nursing is required for grading as a staff nurse, and, if so, what certificate is recognized:*

Answer.—All hospitals but 6 (110 out of 116 reporting) require a certificate for this purpose.

The Royal Medico-Psychological Certificate is recognized by 109 hospitals.

Either the Royal Medico-Psychological Certificate or General Nursing Councils' Certificate is recognized by 34 hospitals.

The General Nursing Councils' Certificate only is recognized by one hospital.

Deduction.—A certificate, whether State registrable or not, is required. In three hospitals only has the training for the Certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association ceased in favour of the General Nursing Councils' Certificate.

Questions *designed to ascertain why candidates are not entering for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations:*

[It should be noted that the figures relate to General Nursing

Councils of England and Scotland only. The Irish Councils have not yet held examinations in mental nursing.]

Answers.—(a) Out of 108 mental hospitals, 104 are recognized as Training Schools by the General Nursing Councils. Of these, 60 prepare candidates, and 51 have entered candidates.

Candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from	{ Prelim. .	105	309	414
51 Training Schools	{ Final .	50	100	150
Average annual number of candi-	{ Prelim. .	0·6	2·0	2·6
dates per Training School	{ Final .	0·3	0·6	0·9

Out of 118 mental hospitals, only 3 do not prepare candidates for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations, namely Cardiff, Maidstone and Wakefield. Seven mental hospitals made no return of number of candidates.

Candidates for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from 108	{ Prelim. 2,456	3,257	5,713	
Training Schools	{ Final . 2,696	2,553	5,249	
Average annual number of candi-	{ Prelim. 7·6	10·0	17·6	
dates per Training School	{ Final . 8·2	7·8	16·0	

[Totals refer to entries not entrants.]

Deduction.—The complaint that the mental hospitals do not prepare candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations can apply only to 44 out of the 108 returning reports. Of the 64 remaining, 51 have entered candidates, 9 prepare but did not enter any candidates, and 4 are not recognized by the General Nursing Councils as Training Schools.

These figures, however, require further analysis before their real significance becomes apparent.

Of the 3 hospitals with under 200 beds entering candidates for the Preliminary and Final Examinations of the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, out of 15 entries, 13 were from Barnwood House.

Out of 203 candidates entering from 18 hospitals of 200 to 1,000 beds, 41 were from Cardiff, 34 from Leicester City, and 24 from the Retreat, York. Total 99, leaving 104 to be accounted for by the other 15 Training Schools of this group—roughly 7 entries each.

Of the 30 hospitals of 1,000 or more beds, out of 346 entries, 99 were from Maidstone, 77 from Claybury, 28 from Wakefield, and 27

from Hanwell, leaving 115 to be accounted for by the other 26 Training Schools of this group—about 4 entries each.

The reports from the following hospitals, then, are of special interest.

Barnwood House.—This hospital entered, in the year 1926, for the General Nursing Council's Preliminary 1 male and 10 female nurses. In the following year, 1927, there were no entries for the Preliminary, but 3 nurses entered for the Final Examination. It is significant that in 1926 no candidates entered for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Preliminary Examination, but 14 entered in 1925 and 7 in 1927. The Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Final Examination figures were: 1925, 4; 1926, 5; 1927, 5. Apparently the General Nursing Council's Preliminary Examination replaced the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Preliminary Examination in 1926 only.

The distance from the hospital to the nearest General Nursing Council's Examination centre is 40 miles, and travelling expenses were—1st day, 9s. 9d. ; 2nd day, 28s. 8d.

Cardiff.—Dr. Goodall writes: "As you are aware, the General Nursing Council exempt those on their Mental Register from passing their Preliminary, and from one year's training if the mental nurse takes up General Nursing. It is considered that the Mental Nurse's status, *vis-à-vis* the General Nurse, is better if she holds the General Nursing Council's Certificate. Any procedure which tends to demarcate the mental from the general nurse is strongly to be deprecated. It is considered that a separate mode of certification (as by Royal Medico-Psychological Certificate) does this. Looking ahead, it is believed psychiatric clinics connected with general hospitals are inevitable. Hospital nurses trained in them will prefer the certificate issued by the same body (General Nursing Councils) that issues the General Certificate—a one-portal system."

The junior staff changes wards every three months, and all take turns at night duty; so every candidate obtains actual bedside nursing before entering for the Preliminary Examination. Instruction in "General Duties" and "Accidents and Emergencies" is given for the Final Examination.

Candidates are not now prepared for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations.

The practical outcome of the new system is that the entries for the General Nursing Council's Examinations were:

<i>Preliminary Examination.</i>	<i>Final Examination.</i>
1925, Males 1, females 11.	1926, Males 1, females 8.
1926, ,, 1, ,, 7.	1927, ,, <i>nil</i> , ,, 4.
1927, ,, <i>nil</i> , ,, 8.	

The distance from the hospital to the nearest General Nursing Council's Examination Centre is represented by a 20 minutes' motor 'bus ride.

The hospital accommodates 660 patients, and has a staff of 86 female and 40 male nurses.

Leicester City.—All entries for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Preliminary Examination have ceased. As regards the General Nursing Council's Examinations, the entries were :

<i>Preliminary Examination.</i>	<i>Final Examination.</i>
1925, Males 8, females 6.	1927, Males 4, females 2.
1926, „ <i>nil</i> , „ 10.	
1927, „ <i>nil</i> , „ 4 (including 1 re-entry).	

Candidates attend examinations in their own " off-duty " time. The distance to the nearest centre is 25 miles, fare 6s. 2d.

The hospital accommodates 945 patients. Nursing staff—females 61, males 45.

The net result of three years' experience of the new system is: 4 male and 2 female entrants for the Final Examination out of 8 males and 19 females who had entered for the Preliminary Examination.

The Retreat, York.—Although 21 nurses entered for the General Nursing Councils' Preliminary Examination, there has been no falling off in the entries for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Preliminary Examination. The net result has been 3 entrants for the Final General Nursing Council's Examination in 1927.

Obviously the Retreat is offering adequate facilities for both examinations, which is the official policy of the Association.

The nearest centre is 23 miles away, travelling expenses 6s. 4d.

The hospital accommodates 200 patients. Nursing staff—females 60, males 30.

Maidstone.—The views of the Medical Superintendent (Dr. H. Wolseley-Lewis) are in line with those of Dr. Goodall. Referring to the attitude of the nurses he says: ". . . they prefer to take the General Nursing Council's Certificate as it enables those who desire to qualify in other branches of nursing without doing the Preliminary a second time. It is also a registrable qualification, and confers the same professional status as in other branches of nursing."

The figures given in support of this statement are :

<i>Preliminary Examination.</i>	<i>Final Examination.</i>
1925, Males <i>nil</i> , females 29.	1925, Males <i>nil</i> , females 4.
1926, „ 4, „ 24.	1926, „ 1, „ 3.
1927, „ 4, „ 13.	1927, „ 1, „ 16.
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Dr. Wolseley-Lewis stated at the November meeting, 1927, that "his institution had sent up 89 candidates, of whom 51 had passed, an average of 63%, etc."

Bedside training is given before the Preliminary Examination, "General Duties" also in the first year, and "Accidents and Emergencies" in the second year.

The feeling in favour of the General Nursing Council's Certificate seems to be strongest on the female side.

The nearest examination centre is 36 miles away, travelling expenses, 5s. 6d.

The hospital accommodates 1,880 patients. Nursing staff—females 164, males 79.

Claybury.—Equal opportunities are afforded for both schemes, and a large staff and a near centre make the General Nursing Council's scheme practicable. There is a tendency for a falling off of male entries for the General Nursing Council's Preliminary Examination. No males entered for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Preliminary Examination in 1925—all went in for its companion, but allegiance to the Royal Medico-Psychological Association returned in 1926, and in greater degree in 1927. In the latter year 5 males only entered for the General Nursing Council's Preliminary Examination.

The hospital accommodates 2,242 patients. Nursing staff—females 213, males 180.

Wakefield.—The Royal Medico-Psychological Association's examinations ceased in 1926, the reason stated being :

"After careful consideration we decided to adopt the one-portal system of the General Nursing Councils. We are satisfied from our experience that the Preliminary Examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association by no means attains to the standard of that of the General Nursing Councils, and could well be much improved."

In support of this, the entries for the General Nursing Council's Examinations were :

<i>Preliminary Examination.</i>	<i>Final Examination.</i>
1925, Males 7, females 6.	1925, Males <i>nil</i> , females <i>nil</i> .
1926, ,, <i>nil</i> , ,, 2.	1926, ,, <i>nil</i> , ,, 1.
1927, ,, 1, ,, 5.	1927, ,, 6, ,, <i>nil</i> .

The net result is 6 male and 1 female entrants for the Final Examination out of 8 male and 13 female nurses who had entered for the Preliminary Examination.

A certificate of proficiency in mental nursing is not essential for the position of staff nurse.

The hospital accommodates 2,320 patients. Nursing staff—females 290, males 188.

Hanwell.—At this hospital support for the General Nursing Council's Examinations comes from the female nurses only. The entries for the Preliminary Examination are rapidly diminishing, as shown by the following figures: 1925, 15; 1926, 5; 1927, 3. In the latter year only 6 entered for these examinations, as against 56 male and 51 female nurses for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations. Equal opportunities are afforded for both schemes.

Dr. Daniel faithfully carries out the Birmingham (1925) resolution, and the General Nursing Council's Preliminary Examination is taken AFTER the Association's Preliminary.

Deduction.—A fair *conclusion* from the facts detailed in the reports from these hospitals is that where the choice is left freely to the staff little or no headway has been made by the General Nursing Councils' Examinations. In one only of those hospitals which give definite preference to the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, can any degree of success be claimed.

The answers to the direct question (*b*) put to 44 hospitals as to why candidates were not prepared for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations may be summarized as follows:

Reasons given.	Number of occasions.			Total.
	Hospitals under 200 beds.	200 to 1,000 beds.	Over 1,000 beds.	
No entries	2	17	10	29
Expenses too great	1	14	13	28
Examinations too distant; time away from hospital too long	1	5	1	7
Not possible to prepare candi- dates for both Examinations	—	2	2	4
Royal Medico - Psychological Association's Examination sufficient	2	4	4	10
Too much sick nursing for male staff	—	1	—	1
General Nursing Councils' Cer- tificate not recognized for proficiency pay	—	—	2	2
No advantage in registration	—	—	2	2
No "First Aid" in General Nursing Councils' Examina- tions	—	—	1	1

(c) Circumstances incidental to the holding of the General Nursing Councils' Examinations :

The distance from the hospitals to the nearest examination centres may be gauged from the following table :

Distance.	Reports.	Distance.	Reports.
Under 5 miles . . .	10	50 to 60 miles . . .	5
5 to 10 " . . .	11	60 " 70 " . . .	6
10 " 20 " . . .	26	70 " 80 " . . .	3
20 " 30 " . . .	24	80 " 100 " . . .	2
30 " 40 " . . .	11	100 miles and over . . .	3
40 " 50 " . . .	10		
		Total . . .	111

The return railway fare from hospital to the nearest examination centre is stated in most reports. Excluding those cases in which this is under 7s. 6d. the information given on this point may be summarized as follows :

7s. 6d. to 10s. . .	14 hospitals	28s. 8d. . . .	1 hospital.
10s. 6d. to 15s. . .	16 "	33s. . . .	1 "
15s. 6d. to 18s. . .	6 "	35s. . . .	1 "
22s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. . .	2 "	36s. . . .	1 "
24s. 6d. . . .	1 hospital.		
28s. . . .	1 "		44 hospitals.

In regard to 30 hospitals the railway fare is from 5s. to 7s., and in about 30 hospitals the amount is stated to be from a few pence to 5s.

Cost of subsistence is put down at 3s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per day. If the night has to be spent at the Examination Centre there is, in most cases, a further expenditure of from 12s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.

It should be remembered that attendance at an Examination Centre may be required on more than one day for the Final Examination.

These travelling and subsistence expenses can be avoided as regards the Written Examination if 25 candidates can be guaranteed.

Inquiry as to how many hospitals are in a position to avail themselves of this arrangement yields the following results :

Can guarantee 25 candidates . . .	8 hospitals.
Cannot guarantee 25 candidates . . .	102 "
No reply	8 "
	—
	118 hospitals.

The number of candidates who could be spared from duty to attend at Examination Centres would be restricted in no less than 65 hospitals.

Other hospitals say "No," "Probably," "Possibly," "Doubtful," "Cause inconvenience," etc.

This is an important point, as no system of holding examinations which requires the absence of nurses for more than half a day on each occasion is likely to commend itself to the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Training Schools.

Deduction from (b), (c).

The information supplied in the above paragraphs is conclusive that there are substantial reasons for 44 English and Scottish Hospitals not preparing candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations; these reasons account also for the small number entering in the case of the majority of those hospitals which do prepare candidates. Such facts therefore give no support to the accusation, not infrequently levelled at members of the Association, that opposition to the General Nursing Councils' Examinations is responsible for the small number of entries for these examinations.

Questions designed to ascertain the views of the Training Schools on the "one-portal" entry to the nursing profession :

Answer.—It may be said that the General Nursing Councils in adopting the one-portal system represented the ideals of the Association, but this is not the opinion of the majority of those who have to regard the matter from a practical rather than an idealistic point of view, namely, the Heads of Training Schools.

On the point whether the one-portal Preliminary Examination would be improved by the addition of a requirement of an elementary knowledge of the symptoms of mental disorder, and "First Aid," there is an almost unanimity of opinion. Out of 97 Training Schools answering the question on this point there were only 4 dissentient.

Questions inviting suggestions for improving the Association's Regulations for the Training and Examination of Nurses.

Answers.—These may be summarized as follows :

(i) The *Handbook for Mental Nurses* to be revised and simplified, especially as regards psychology and the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system.

[Reports from Ayr, Bristol, Maryborough, Nottingham City, The Old Manor, Kingsseat, East Riding, Berks Co., The Coppice.]

(ii) The Medical Superintendents not to examine their own candidates.

[Reports from Nottingham City, Winson Green, Cheddleton, Brentwood, Wakefield, Hanwell, Warwick, Barnwood House, Kirklands, Coton Hill.]

(iii) The Intermediate Examination to be re-introduced.

[*Reports from Winson Green, Rubery Hill, Warwick, Riccartbar.*]

(iv) A list of equipment for the examination to be issued.

[*Reports from Bangour, Barnwood House, Virginia Water.*]

(v) Training cards to be instituted.

[*Reports from Nottingham City, Winson Green, Horton.*]

(vi) A rota of examiners to be appointed by the Association and chosen geographically, each pair to undertake the examination in a group of hospitals.

[*Reports from Warwick, Barnwood House.*]

(vii) Other suggestions are: "A live register" [*Cheddleton*]. "Examination Centres" [*Cheddleton, Barnwood House*]. "Coadjutors and Nurse Examiners to be appointed by the Education Committee" [*Springfield*]. "More knowledge of Bedside Nursing" [*Wakefield*]. "Examinations to be held once a year" [*Riccartbar*]. "Theory and Practice of Nursing to be transferred to the Preliminary Examination and Nurse Coadjutors to be appointed for that examination" [*Bangour*. For *Barnwood House* add "in part" after "nursing"]. "Tutorial Book to be officially prepared and issued by the Association" [*Bristol*]. "Revision of marking by the Nurse Coadjutors—on the 33·3% basis she can pass candidates rejected by both the Medical Superintendent and Coadjutor" [*Cheddleton*]. "The number of demonstrations to be increased and be divided into (a) Mental Nursing Specials by the Medical Officer, and (b) Sick Nursing by the Sister Tutor" [*Cheddleton*]. "The Abolition of 'compulsory questions' in the Final Examination" [*Brentwood*]. "Additions to syllabus such as 'drill,' 'dancing,' 'occupational therapy,' etc." [*several hospitals*].

Many of these suggestions are conveyed in helpful letters, and, no doubt, will be considered in due course by the Educational Committee.

Appended are brief summaries of the answers to the questionnaire according to the size of the hospitals, drawn up by Dr. W. J. T. Kimber, Honorary Secretary of the Educational Committee. His analysis and general summary of the answers have been most helpful in preparing these notes.

J. R. LORD.

APPENDIX.

I. *Hospitals with under 200 patients.*

Number of reports, 13.

All prepare for Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate.

5 and one additional for female nurses only are recognized by General Nursing Councils (England and Scotland).

3 prepare for General Nursing Councils' Examinations and have all entered candidates.

Candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from 3 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	1	11	12
	{ Final	0	3	3
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	0	1	1
	{ Final	0	0.3	0.3

Candidates for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from 11 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	367	679	1,046
	{ Final	363	369	732
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	11.1	20.5	31.6
	{ Final	11.0	11.1	22.1

10 require the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate for Staff Nurse. In one case either certificate is accepted, two require no certificate and one does not say.

None can guarantee 25 candidates for examination.

9 can give 6 months' bedside training prior to the Prelim., one cannot, and 3 are doubtful answers.

As regards the one-portal question, the answers are:	{ Essential	.	2
	{ Desirable	.	4
	{ No	.	6

10 agree to suggested alterations in General Nursing Councils' Preliminary and one does not.

3 would be restricted by attendance at a Centre and one would not.

2. Hospitals of 200-1,000 patients.

Number of reports, 58.

One does not prepare for Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate.

52 are recognized by General Nursing Councils (England and Scotland).

21 prepare for General Nursing Certificate, and of these 3 have no entries.

Candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total numbers entering from 18 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	36	109	145
	{ Final	19	39	58
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	1	2	3
	{ Final	0	1	1

Candidates for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from 54 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	501	781	1,282
	{ Final	463	415	878
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	3.0	4.8	7.8
	{ Final	2.9	2.5	5.4

In 57 hospitals the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate qualifies for Staff Nurse. In 13 either certificate is accepted, and one requires no certificate.

2 can guarantee 25 candidates and 54 cannot.

26 can give 6 months' bedside training prior to the Prelim., and 24 cannot.

As regards the one-portal question, replies are :

{ Essential	. 8
{ Desirable	. 10
{ No	. 33

41 agree to the suggested alterations in General Nursing Councils' Preliminary and 3 do not.

26 would be limited by attendance at a Centre and 17 would not.

3. Hospitals with over 1,000 patients.

Number of reports, 47.

2 do not prepare for Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate.

47 are recognized by General Nursing Councils (England and Wales).

36 prepare for General Nursing Certificate, and of these 6 have no entries.

Candidates for the General Nursing Councils' Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total numbers entering from 30 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	68	189	257
	{ Final	31	58	89
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	7	2	3
	{ Final	0	6	1

Candidates for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Examinations, 1925-27 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number entering from 43 Training Schools	{ Prelim.	1,588	. 1,797	. 3,385
	{ Final	1,870	. 1,769	. 3,639
Average annual number of candidates per Training School	{ Prelim.	12.3	. 13.9	. 26.1
	{ Final	14.5	. 13.7	. 28.2

In 42 hospitals the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's Certificate is necessary for Staff Nurse. One requires General Nursing Councils' Certificate, in 20 cases either certificate is accepted, 3 require no certificate, and one does not say.

6 can guarantee 25 candidates and 35 cannot.

25 can give the preliminary 6 months' bedside training prior to the Prelim., and 22 cannot.

As regards the one-portal question replies are :

{ Essential .	13
{ Desirable .	5
{ No .	24

42 agree to suggested alterations in the General Nursing Councils' Preliminary.

30 would be limited by the requisite attendance at a Centre and 15 do not anticipate difficulty.

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE STATE REGISTRATION OF MENTAL NURSES.

THE following observations may be useful in any negotiations with the General Nursing Councils which may follow the effort now being made to bring about the recognition of the Association's Mental Nursing Certificate for admission to the State Registers of Mental Nurses.

MATTERS NOT NEGOTIATORY.

(a) *Examination centres other than at the Mental Hospitals.*—The answers to the Questionnaire appear to settle this point conclusively.

Attendances at fixed centres needing absence from hospital for a whole day or days would restrict the number of candidates in no less than 65 hospitals. The Local Authorities would not tolerate such restrictions. In arguing this point it can be advanced that at most mental hospitals under Local Authorities there is but little change year by year in the nursing requirements. These