

(d) To compensate in some degree for there being less sick nursing in the Association's preliminary examination the subject of "Hygiene" might be extended.

In support of this it may be advanced that knowledge of "Hygiene" is more useful in mental nursing than knowledge of the finer technicalities of sick nursing. (One recalls the fact that Florence Nightingale's *Notes on Nursing* is mainly "Hygiene.")

(e) The offer that, should the General Nursing Councils accept the Association's Certificate for registration, such admission to the mental nursing register will not entitle the nurse to forego a year's training for entry into the general register unless she first passes the General Nursing Council's oral and practical examination in sick nursing.

This advantage up to now has been largely illusory as few general hospitals will admit nurses to two years' training. In many mental hospitals it is just as convenient to give three years' leave for general training as two, and it is better for the nurse.

(f) The offer to accept any reasonable variation in the method and standard of marking that the General Nursing Councils might stipulate. In the event of it being higher than the Association may think necessary, the condition of acceptance of the certificate for registration in that case would be—

"That the candidate has attained — % of marks in the examinations for the Association's Certificate."

(g) All the Association's examinations would be open to inspection by representatives of the General Nursing Councils.

(h) The Association would declare its certificate null and void in all cases in which the holder's name had been removed from the State Register.

(i) The issue of more precise regulations on "Class Examinations," "Demonstrations," "Class Instructions" and "Ward Instruction."

J. R. LORD.

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#### THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL (L. G. BROCK, ESQ., C.B.) AND THE NURSING OF MENTAL PATIENTS.

SPEAKING at the formal opening of the new Nurses' Home at St. Audry's Hospital, Melton (for report, *vide* p. 581), the new Chairman of the Board of Control (England and Wales) referred to the change that was undoubtedly taking place in the attitude of the public towards mental disease. He did not say that people

generally had adopted the new point of view or had assimilated the new ideas so completely as one would wish, but there was among thoughtful and educated people a very significant change in outlook. It was necessary to introduce the hospital spirit into their institutions, and they had to make the asylum, a place of refuge, into a place of curative and remedial treatment. If they sought to make mental hospitals what they ought to be, and to establish the curative idea, they must have a well-trained and well-housed nursing staff. To be a good nurse demanded devotion, self-sacrifice, rare and precious moral qualities; but something else was also demanded. With the advance of medicine, with more elaborate surgical technique, devotion and care, though no less necessary than they were before, must be supplemented by the trained intelligence. In his opinion there was no form of nursing which made heavier demands than mental nursing, and our mental nurses must have the chance to develop their minds under home-like conditions and reasonable comfort during their off-duty hours.

That was owed to the nurses, but apart from any question of an obligation of honour, it was sound administration. There would always be women who nursed because it was their vocation, but there could never be enough of those women to go round. If in future they were to attract the type of woman whom they wanted for this work—bearing in mind the fact that the mental hospitals were competing against many other professions which were now open to women—they must offer good conditions of employment. One of the first essentials was that the nurses, when off duty, should have quiet and comfortable rooms, and he was pleased with the design of the new Home. He regretted that no definite room had been set apart for study, although there certainly was a “quiet room.” It was important that the mental nurse should take the appropriate examinations, not so much for the sake of having passed them, but for the disciplinary value of the preparation, and to give her the same professional standing as that in other branches of nursing.

He did not want it to be assumed that the Board of Control was in any way indifferent to the claims of the male nurse, but there was no need for them to reside within the precincts of the Hospital. He was old-fashioned enough to believe in marriage, and it was better that the male nurse, when old enough, should marry, and make his home in the village or town, not too near the Hospital, so that he might get the rest and relief essential to maintain efficiency by passing into another—and a more normal—atmosphere when off duty.