

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

QUARTERLY COURT.

A Quarterly Court of the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital was held on Monday, the 1st inst., at which a lengthy and most instructive discussion took place concerning the Nursing arrangements, and upon which we have commented in our Editorial. Below, we reprint the official report; next week we hope to find space for the discussion on the subject, and for a continuation of our remarks thereon. We desire to draw the most careful attention of our readers to this, because it is a typical example of the manner in which attempts at progress in Nursing matters are opposed by a certain section of persons who, for the most part, are conspicuously ignorant of the real conditions under which Nursing is carried on, at the present day, but who, nevertheless, as Governors of public Hospitals are able to retard, or even to prevent, improvements in Nursing, of which they do not see the importance, but which are of essential value to the sick poor upon whom Hospital Nurses have to attend.

PROBATIONERS' ACCOMMODATION.

"The Committee appointed as to accommodation for probationers and servants presented the following report:—"On 12th September, 1894, the Weekly Board appointed a Committee with instructions to formulate a plan for improving the sleeping accommodation of the Probationers. The Committee made a report on this subject to the Quarterly Court of 29th October, 1894. At this Court, other questions relating to the Probationers were brought forward, and it was thereupon agreed to increase the number of the Committee and to enlarge their powers. These powers were enlarged at the following Weekly Board in these words: 'That power be given to the Committee to consider the advisability of substituting ward maids for charwomen, and also any other questions connected with the Hospital arising out of it.'

In accordance with these instructions the Committee considered the following subjects:—

1. The length of time for which Probationers in the Hospital ought to be trained.

The Committee find that at Addenbrooke's Hospital Probationers are trained only for a period of two years. This in the judgment of competent authorities is altogether insufficient.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords state:—"That they are of opinion that the minimum period, after which a Nurse can be advertised as thoroughly trained, is three years."

The *Nursing Directory* writes as follows:—

'Addenbrooke's Hospital. Excellent training, which only needs to be lengthened to three years for the School to rank amongst the best in the kingdom.'

The *NURSING RECORD* says:—

'There can be no doubt, that within a brief space of time there will be a universal standard of three years'

training, to which all Institutions desiring to be regarded as Nurse Training Schools will conform.'

In a paper by H.R.H. the Princess Christian on 'The Progress of Nursing in the British Isles' is the following:—

'It is the hope of the Royal British Nurses' Association that the time is not far distant, when the State will see the importance of recognising a definite diploma of Nursing, and of giving its official sanction to the maintenance of the Register of Trained Nurses.'

The Committee are informed that 57 Provincial Hospitals in England have already adopted the system of three years' training.

In fixing the training of the Probationers at two years, the Governors of Addenbrooke's Hospital hoped that their Probationers might if necessary obtain a third year's training at one of the London or large Provincial Hospitals.

This however is no longer practicable. The Matron of the Charing Cross Hospital, London, writes:—

'I am sorry it is not possible for us to enter into an agreement to receive your Probationers at the end of two years.'

The Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, London, says:—

'I am afraid it would be out of the question for us to unite in your scheme. I think you will agree with me, that a break at the end of two years, and a removal to another Hospital, would interfere with the consistency of the Probationers' training.'

The Matron of the Leicester Infirmary says:—

'I regret that I cannot take your Probationers for their third year.'

The Matron of the County Hospital, Lincoln, says:—

'I am sorry not to be able to entertain your proposal relative to the Nurses. I am quite sure it would not prove a satisfactory scheme either for Cambridge or Lincoln.'

The Matron of the Chester Infirmary says:—

'Personally, I think your proposal of sending your Nurses to another Hospital for the third year would be very unworkable. It would appear to your Nurses that "Addenbrooke's" was not sufficient for their training, and would be a cause of strained relations between the Hospitals.'

Having carefully weighed the evidence placed before them, and being aware that the possession of a certificate of a three years' training has become absolutely necessary for the success of a Nurse in her calling, the Committee came to the conclusion that, for the welfare of the Hospital and in the interests of the Nurses, it is necessary at once to extend the period of training to three years.

2. The Domestic Work allotted to the Probationers.

It was stated to the Committee by the Matron that the Probationers during the whole of their two years' training have to do some of the rough work of the wards that even paid Nurses in other Hospitals are not required to do.

The Committee were informed that each Nurse Probationer on day duty has to sweep and dust the long wards, to keep clean lavatories and kitchens, to clean up and carry away twice daily, in the winter, the ashes from fire grates, to wash up all the dinner things, sometimes as many as 50 or 60 plates, besides sauce-

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