

lows: The Dutch Association for Treatment of the Sick acknowledges, exclusively, the certificates granted by Institutions, which concord with the following principles, and have regulated their examinations in accordance with these:—

I.—Those who wish to be admitted to the examination of Nurse, must (*a*) be of a strictly moral conduct, healthy, and in the possession of general intellectual development; (*b*) they must supply proof that they have been attached, for the time of three years, to one and the same Hospital, with the enjoyment of board and lodging, and also that they have sufficiently profited by the practical and theoretical instruction in the art of Nursing.

II.—The examination includes all that relates to the treatment of the sick, and extends over the practical knowledge of the candidates concerning all those performances which may be esteemed essentially necessary for the practice of Nursing. The theoretical knowledge need not go further than is required for the good understanding of these performances.

For separated branches of Nursing, special examinations can be arranged, and special certificates can be granted. The conditions, on which the aspirants are admitted to such an examination, are as follows:—The candidates must either possess a certificate of Nursing or fulfil the conditions named under I. *a* and *b*. In the latter case the examination includes, as well, the general treatment of the sick as the special branch of Nursing.

The conclusions of the Committee called forth a very long and animated discussion. The time of training was especially the *question brûlante*. In our Dutch Nursing world, as well as in your English one, it is the topic of the day. The result of the deliberations on this subject was, however, that a three years' training was acknowledged as strictly necessary to become thoroughly experienced in the highly important, and much-including Nursing work. The sentence that candidates should supply proof that they have been attached for the time mentioned to *one and the same* Hospital, was modified, inasmuch that it is now to be read—to one and the same Hospital or to several Institutions, which are under the same management. The Hospital, where the Probationer receives her training, must contain at least 40 beds, and all kinds of patients must be nursed there.

The management of the Association reserves to itself the right of being represented at the examinations

of those who desire to obtain a certificate of Nurse. It intends also to open a register for all who possess a certificate acknowledged by the Association, and to admit as members those whose names are entered in it. The Association has already acknowledged the certificates of the following Institutions: The White Cross, the Red Cross, the Sophia Hospital for Children at Rotterdam, the Nursing Association at Utrecht, and the Dutch Association for Psychiatry. With a view to the many worthy women, who acted with the uttermost success and devotion as Nurses, before the examinations and certificates were instituted, the management will apply, very frequently, the rule, that any person who has, by her energy and zeal, done much to further the cause of sick treatment, can be admitted as a member by the general meeting, if proposed by the management or by any ten members.

These are the principal results to which the first annual general meeting of the Association has led.

I will not finish this letter without speaking a few words of the manner in which Christmas has been celebrated in one of the halls of the newly-built Wilhelmina Hospital (so called after our dear young Queen). Thanks to the indefatigable care of Miss Reynvaan, the Lady Superintendent; Dr. Kemper, the Medical Superintendent; and the Nursing staff, a merry feast was organised for about 200 patients (men and women), and 40 children, whose state of health permitted them being present. In the centre of the tastefully decorated room stood a splendid Christmas tree. It was a most touching sight to see so many pale and care-worn faces brightened by a happy smile in looking at the tree—a symbol of infinite love, kindness, and forethought. Many a young heart thrilled with hope and glad expectation in casting a glance at the evergreen leaves of the mighty fir, amongst which were hidden a great number of mysterious packages, intermingled with the usual glittering decorations. After the singing of a religious song the children gathered round the tree, and with merry laughter and loud cheers the presents were distributed. There was not one little hand which remained unfilled. Even the infants, who must be lifted up by the kindly smiling Sisters in order to see all the splendour of the children's paradise, were not forgotten. I am sure that all the spectators have brought home with them a most blessed impression, and will for a long time bear in mind the evening of the 20th of December.

At Christmas play and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

And with a sincere wish I end this epistle:—A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the readers of the NURSING RECORD.

HOLLANDIA.

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