



DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON WORKHOUSE NURSING.

REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY THE

PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

TO ENQUIRE INTO THE

NURSING OF THE SICK POOR IN WORKHOUSES.

PART I.

REPORT AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1902.

APPENDIX XXVII.

Memorials of Scheme for the training and certification of Workhouse Nurses in Yorkshire, annexed to Mr. BAGENAL'S report.

That a Board be formed from the contracting Unions, to be called the Yorkshire Poor Law Nursing Board, which shall meet at such times as may be convenient, to discuss and settle any points of practice or principle arising out of the scheme now agreed upon.

That applicants for the position of probationer should be well educated young women of high character, and that persons to be appointed as probationers should be of the age of 21 years or over, unless special circumstances should warrant appointment at an earlier age.

That applicants serve a period of at least two years on trial, and if found to be suitable for training shall enter into an agreement with the Union, whereby they train for a period of at least three years. A common form of agreement to be settled by the Nursing Board is recommended for use in all the Unions.

That the training to be given in all contracting Unions be assimilated as far as possible, regard being had to the conditions prevailing in the smaller Workhouse Infirmarys.

That in order to carry out the provision in Clause 5 a Supervising Training Committee, consisting of five members, be formed, who shall meet at convenient times and give advice and assistance on matters of training to those Unions seeking it, or one or more of them as they shall appoint, and be empowered to visit any workhouse infirmary in Yorkshire where nurses are trained, to give suggestions as to a common standard of training.

That the Supervising Committee have charge of the examination of probationers from all the contracting Unions in their practical nursing work, and for that purpose the Committee appoint two of their number to visit the Committee Infirmarys from time to time where probationers are ready for examination, and examine them, and that they have power to sign certificates, and to sign the standard certificate, hereinafter referred to, as regards the probationer's fitness in her practical nursing work.

That it being the desire of the contracting Unions to secure for Yorkshire trained nurses a high qualification in theoretical medical and surgical knowledge (as well as practical nursing), that the Yorkshire College be requested to hold, through their medical department, periodical examinations in such matters, and that certificates be given to successful candidates, to be known as the Yorkshire certificates.

That the contracting Unions pay the cost of their candidates to and from the place of examination, and all examination and other fees.

That there should be power between Union and Union, with the consent of the Nursing Board, to exchange probationers for one year, in order to enable probationers to obtain a varied experience, but such exchange should not take place before the end of the first year nor after the end of the third year of training.

That the Nursing Board should keep in touch with the smaller Unions in Yorkshire, where nurses are not trained, with the object of enabling such Unions to obtain nurses who have completed their course of training in accordance with this scheme.

That the cost attendant on the initiation and working of this scheme be borne by the contracting Unions according to the rateable values, as ascertained by the last published annual report of the Local Government Board.

That the Unions in the County of York, training nurses, bind themselves by agreement for a period of three years to carry out the proposals contained in this scheme.

That the Local Government Board be requested to sanction the proposals contained in this scheme.

Your Committee, after settling the foregoing proposals, appointed a deputation to wait on the Medical

Department of the Yorkshire College to ascertain if the College would undertake the examinations and give the certificate.

The deputation communicated in writing to the secretary as follows:—

(1) The Yorkshire College expresses sympathy with the deputation of the Poor Law Unions in their desire to secure a high and uniform standard of efficiency in nurses employed in the Workhouse Hospitals with which they are concerned, and is willing to render them what assistance it can.

(2) But considering that the practical training of a nurse is so much the most important part of her education, and considering also that the Yorkshire College can neither give such training nor determine its efficiency, it is not possible for the Yorkshire College to make itself responsible for any certificate of general practical efficiency in nursing.

(3) On the other hand, the Yorkshire College is not indisposed to assist the Poor Law Union in that part of their scheme which consists in testing the theoretical knowledge of those nurses whose practical efficiency is satisfactorily guaranteed by the Poor Law Unions.

(4) For this end the Yorkshire College is willing to draw up (through the Board of Medicine) a schedule of those subjects with which, in their opinion, a nurse should have theoretical acquaintance.

(5) And the Yorkshire College is further willing that in testing such theoretical knowledge the Poor Law Unions should have the assistance of members of the medical staff as examiners.

(6) Provided that it be understood that such examiners certify only to the results of their examinations in the subjects of the said schedules, and do not make the College responsible for any opinion on the practical skill of the nurses.

(7) And the Yorkshire College too feels that in the case of all nurses presented for such examination, it should be understood that the practical training which they have received has been given at least for a certain minimum length of time in hospitals which reach a certain standard as to the number of beds and variety of cases and methods of instruction. This standard to be the subject of agreement between the Yorkshire College and the Poor Law Unions.

(Signed) DE B. BIRCH,
Dean, Department of Medicine,
Yorkshire College.

In submitting this report your committee have to recommend:—

(1) That the scheme detailed above, as approved by the Committee, be adopted.

(2) That a Nursing Board be formed, and that it consist of one representative from each Union, with the addition of the medical officer and lady superintendent from these Unions in which there is a resident medical officer.

(3) That the Yorkshire College should have power to have one or two representatives on the Nursing Board.

(4) That each Union agreeing to the scheme should pay a subscription of £3 3s. for the expenses of the Nursing Board.

(5) That the Nursing Board be recommended to approach the Local Government Board at an early date to obtain their approval to the expenditure necessitated by the scheme.

J. W. TILLOTSON,
Chairman of the Committee.

ARTHUR T. LONGBOTHAM,
Hon. Sec.

June, 1901.

THE JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, 1891.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 18, 1891.

ALBANY: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PRINTERS, 1891.

THE LAND OFFICE, ALBANY, N. Y., JANUARY 18, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant,

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COMMITTEE INTO AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NURSES
FOR WORKHOUSE NURSING

87. **REPORT.** Departmental Committee on Workhouse Nursing. Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to enquire into the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses. Part I Report and Summary of Recommendations. London. HMSO. 1902. [Cd. 1366]. *with*

REPORT. Departmental Committee on Workhouse Nursing. Minutes of evidence taken before the committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to enquire into the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses. Part II. London. HMSO. 1902. [Cd. 1367]. Folio. 210pp. Rebound in green cloth, black label.

Ford and Ford *A Breviate of Parliamentary Papers 1900-1916*. p. 242. The Complete Report. The purpose of the report was to inquire into the nursing the sick poor in workhouses and to look into the method of obtaining an adequate supply of nurses, the qualifications for nurses etc. With information on the social class from which nurses tended to be drawn, the training necessary for workhouse nursing, the various grades on nurses, remuneration etc.

The appendix includes "Memoranda as to workhouse nursing," by Louisa Twining and "Extracts from Memoranda of Miss Nightingale as to Workhouse nursing."