

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S REPORTB. Sc. Examination 1986

This report is concerned with two papers:

1. S 481 NURSING MANAGEMENT
2. S 482 PRINCIPLES IN GERIATRIC NURSING

1. NURSING MANAGEMENTSection A:

Reiterating my comments of last year, it is obvious that the students lack practical experience in ward management, thereby forcing them to base their answers on theoretical course work. However, they managed very well on the whole and produced answers of a good average. There were no outstandingly good or poor answers. The students had, clearly, been encouraged by their teachers to think and to use their reading in a sensible and creative way. The choices of questions by the candidates are worthy of note. Two questions were not attempted by anyone and one question by just one person. The most popular question, which had its focus on patient teaching, was well answered. In view of the current emphasis on patient teaching and the importance of self-care this is encouraging.

Section B:

The answers, though acceptable on the whole, showed a more limited grasp of the subject matter. The arguments advanced seemed to lack conviction or imagination. Again, it is likely that the students' exposure to research was limited to theoretical deliberations in the class room situation and to the literature. Although this is understandable and, probably, inevitable, it is second hand learning which has not yet been personalized and individually applied.

2. PRINCIPLES OF GERIATRIC NURSING

In this paper, all six questions were attempted by at least one candidate. The one candidate who attempted Question 3 showed sensitivity, knowledge and common-sense.

Here again, the most popular question was also the most pertinent for current health care, which I consider encouraging, especially as it produced some very good answers. In answer to another question (No.6), candidates demonstrated great awareness of some problems, created by gender, race and class. This is another topical issue in contemporary society to which the students had, obviously, been alerted most effectively.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Although the above comments can be interpreted as implying some criticism, I emphasize that all the candidates demonstrated their potential ability to function satisfactorily as first level practitioners. They also showed the necessary academic maturity to use their future experience constructively.

It has been a pleasurable and stimulating experience to be External Examiner to this course. The Director should feel gratified by the results she has been able to achieve. On the basis of the examination answers I have the impression of consistently high standards of education for which the Director and her team of colleagues must take well deserved credit. I feel confident that the graduates from this course will fully justify the investment in their education by developing into professionally and academically competent nurses with commitment and vision.

LISBETH HOCKEY, June 1986.