

BEDFORD COLLEGE
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

MEMORANDUM

To: Ivor

From: Marion.

5.11.81.

Nursing Studies : External Examiners

When we discussed examinations yesterday, I forgot to consider the following:

The way that the nursing courses are set out between the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th years indicate that each nursing speciality, e.g. Psychiatric Nursing which is underpinned by issues of mental health, and Medical/Surgical nursing which is underpinned by nursing of the adult sick, is to be examined by one nurse examiner.

However, No nursing examiner that I know is qualified to examine all of these nursing sub-units. For example, in the 2nd year the nursing examination comprises issues in mental health and nursing of the adult sick; this really requires two examiners - one who has a qualification in psychiatric nursing and one who is competent in the nursing of the adult sick.

Similarly, when we move to the 3rd year, we have obstetric and paediatric nursing which is underpinned by issues of family health as one speciality, and we have geriatric nursing which is underpinned by issues of the ageing process, of chronicity and rehabilitation, of which the nurse examining in obstetrics would have no knowledge. Knowledge pertaining to the history of nursing again really requires a specialist.

When we move to the biological sciences, we again have subjects like pharmacology, pathophysiology and microbiology, and I doubt whether any one examiner is considered competent to examine in all three subjects.

Maybe we ought to have a talk about this.