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The Education and Careers Editor discusses

## PROSPECTS FOR THE TRAINED NURSE

In a wide variety of interesting, responsible and remunerative posts

IT is somewhat strange that just at present nursing does not seem to attract the well-educated girl as it did in the beginning of the century, and the demand for probationers therefore is greater than the supply. This is partly due, perhaps, to the fact that many girls leave school at 17 years of age, and admission to a hospital is seldom possible under 18, and in many cases 19. The intervening period, however, may be well filled with a year more at school or with the special study of such subjects as anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, which are required for the Preliminary Examination all nurses must pass in order to have their names entered on the Nurses' Register in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1910.

Other ways of spending the time profitably would be to take a course of domestic science, or to work in a day nursery, a convalescent home or institution of some kind which would give the would-be nurse a wider outlook on life and enable her to mix with various kinds of people—all very helpful for her future career in which she will have to learn to adapt herself to persons of all ages and very varying dispositions, as well as to new conditions of life.

A certain number of girls who would like to become nurses do not wish to look forward to a life given up entirely to sick nursing, either in hospitals and institutions or in private cases. They do not realize how wide is the scope for the trained nurse outside actual sick nursing, and with the extension of our health services in so many directions this will undoubtedly increase in the near future.

### Openings for Nurses

ONCE a girl is a State Registered Nurse and has had a few years' experience of sick nursing, she will find she is eligible for several interesting and responsible posts, some requiring a few months' extra training, others open to her without it.

Let us consider first the latter posts. She may become a sister, assistant-matron or matron of a hospital, all of which rarely mean the nursing of patients but much organizing capacity. Then there is the school nurse, employed in London and many other large towns to assist the doctor in the medical inspection of school children.

Such nurses are appointed by the Local Authority and pensions are based upon length of service. The work is highly responsible and demands great patience and understanding, but it would appeal to many women who want to build up a better and healthier England. Then the matron in good boarding-schools for boys and girls is generally a S.R.N. who is, next to the headmistress or head-

master, the most important person in the school.

The Sister Tutor is the trained nurse who helps to prepare the probationers for their examinations during the three years' training in the hospital. She attends lectures given by the medical and surgical staff, supervises the work of the nurses, advises them as to their reading and acts generally as a coach. She instructs the nurses in methods of nursing treatments and often goes round with the probationers in the wards so as to give them practical demonstrations of how to do the best for the patients. The sister tutor works under the matron to whom she reports the progress of the probationers and comes into contact with practically all the departments of the hospital. So important is her work considered that King's College of Household and Social Science, in conjunction with the College of Nursing, has arranged a one-year course of special training for the qualified nurse who wishes to become a sister tutor, the salary of whom may be £150 minimum rising to £300 maximum. This post requires a high standard of educational and teaching capacity as well as some years' experience in ward and hospital administration.

### The Work of the Health Visitor

As for the non-nursing posts where a short course of special training is required by the S.R.N., perhaps that of the Health Visitor is the most attractive. Her duties are manifold and varied in the extreme. Only those who are really interested in the poor and their problems are likely to succeed in this work, which involves visits to the homes of the working-class and advice in mothercraft, hygiene and diet.

Attendance is often required at Maternity and Welfare Centres. Appointments are made by the Local Authorities, who require as qualifications for the work the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board and the Health Visitors' Certificate obtainable after the completion of an approved course of training in Public Health Work, in the case of a trained nurse extending over six months.

### Dietitians and Welfare Workers

THE science of dietetics deals with diet in health and sickness and is making considerable progress now in this country, long after its value had been recognized in America and the U.S.A. Doctors, educationists and social workers are at last realizing the importance of diet for the welfare of the nation, and courses are being given in various centres and dietitians appointed in many hospitals and institutions. State Registered Nurses may qualify as dietitians by taking a prescribed course at certain places extending from one to two years.

Nurses are being more and more employed in the welfare departments of industrial undertakings, where they do excellent work in caring for the health of the employees, giving first-aid in cases of accidents and helping in many ways to maintain a high standard of hygiene in factory and workshop. Those interested in such work may attend a nine months' course in Industrial Nursing arranged by the College of Nursing in co-operation with Bedford College for Women. Many older nurses have found this work most congenial, as it calls for the exercise of those "human" qualities which the best nurses have ever possessed.

FLORENCE B. LOW.



College of Nursing and Cowdray Club, 1933.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING  
where a one-year course in sister-tutorship may be taken