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SEASON 1915

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Notice to French Residents

By Order.—All Frenchmen born in 1897 are requested to report immediately to this Consulate, in order to pass the medical examination for military service.

This order applies also to the men born in 1893, 1894 and 1895, whose enlistment has been postponed by previous medical examinations for temporary physical insufficiency.

P. SUZOR,
V. Consul for France.
St. John's. ap21,tf

The General Hospital: Report of Commissioners, 1915.

(continued on page 3.)

He shall cause to be kept books of record wherein shall be entered the names of all patients, their age, residence, occupation, date and terms of admission, date of discharge, diagnosis of disease or injury and result of treatment.

All official communications from departmental heads and other officials to the Board of Governors shall be transmitted through him, and he shall have the right to make such comments as he may deem wise on them and of rendering advice generally to the Board of Governors.

He shall make a report annually to the Board of Governors on the Hospital and its workings during the year, and the reports shall be presented to the Legislature within a week of the opening of each annual session.

Pathological Laboratory and House Surgeons.

It appears from Medical testimony that there is a definite need of greater facilities for Pathological Laboratory work in connection both with the General Hospital and Medical practitioners in the Colony than at present exists in the Public Health Office. We recommend that a Pathological Laboratory be established at the General Hospital, and that the work be assigned to the Staff there.

It appears also that Dr. Knight was appointed by word of mouth to be a locum tenens to Dr. Keegan as to part of his work at a time Dr. Keegan was seriously ill, and that Dr. Knight has been kept on doing duties similar to that of a House Surgeon in other Hospitals. There appears to be ample room for two house surgeons, and we recommend that Dr. Knight be appointed First House Surgeon, and that a young Medical Practitioner be appointed Second House Surgeon for a short period, say two years, and that should Dr. Knight resign at any time that his successor be appointed for a like term. We recommend also that the duties of the House Surgeons be defined in writing by the General Superintendent and that they be directly subject to the latter, and that in cases of differences arising between them an appeal be given to the Governors of the Hospital. We recommend also that the Pathological Laboratory work be part of the duties of one or both of the House Surgeons at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Superintendent of Nurses

The Superintendent of Nurses shall, should a vacancy occur, be appointed by the Board of Governors, after taking the advice of the General Superintendent. She shall have under her the Assistant Superintendent of Nurses, the Night Superintendent of Nurses, the Sisters in charge of Operating Rooms and of the Wards, Graduate Nurses and Probationers, and shall obey implicitly the General Superintendent, the Visiting Physicians, and House Surgeons in regard to all Medical and Surgical work. She shall be responsible to the General Superintendent for the conduct and work of her subordinates and the general administration of the wards and the discipline of the Sisters, Nurses and Probationers. She shall have no control over the X-Ray Room, Dispensary or Dispenser, or Anaesthetist. She shall engage probationer nurses and have charge of their training. She shall appoint to duty in the wards and operating rooms such graduate nurses as the Board of Governors shall direct. She shall have charge of the Nurses' Home, shall place the Assistant Nursing Superintendent of Nurses in residence there, and shall hold her responsible for the discipline of the Nurses while they are there. The House-keeper of the Nurses' Home shall be also responsible to her for the care of the Home.

Sisters of the Operating Room

While we recommend that the Sister or Sisters of the Operating Room remain under the direction of the Superintendent of Nurses for their own conduct and that of the Nurses associated with them, we recommend that the Sister or Sisters be recognized as sub-departmental heads, and that subordinate nurses be directly under the direction of the Sister while they are working with her. We recommend that such Sister have under her a Graduate Nurse and a Nurse that is serving her probation term in the operating room, and the assignment of the nurse in probation to the operating room be made by the Superintendent of Nurses.

The Sister of the Operating Room shall have charge of the operating room and the preparation of the instruments and other needful and necessary work there, be responsible for all surgical and medical supplies and instruments connected therewith. As the work in the operating room is of a strictly surgical and very responsible character, all the nurses there must obey implicitly the directions of the surgeon in charge of the operation in which they are engaged.

X-Ray Operator

The General Hospital has been provided with an X-Ray Room, of which Miss Cullinan has charge. It appears to be most elaborately equipped, and Miss Cullinan takes a keen and a pains taking interest in operating it. She also takes and develops the photographic plates used in the Hospital. In addition to these duties she has charge of the Dispensary, the administering of Anaesthetics, and has acted as Book-keeper of the records of the Institution and General Secretary to the Hospital Physician. Much of this work has been extended by Dr. Keegan with great advantage to the efficient working of the Hospital. There appears to be more work in these duties than should be imposed on one person, and we recommend that Miss Cullinan be relieved of the keeping of the Hospital record books and of secretarial duties. These latter should be assigned to the Store-keeper, or if that is not feasible, a junior clerk might be appointed to undertake this class of work. Difficulties have arisen as to the standing of Miss Cullinan in the Institution. She ranks as a sister, and the question has arisen, whether as a sister she is under the Superintendent of Nurses. We see no reason in respect of her duties why she should be under the Superintendent of Nurses, and we recommend that she be given the standing of X-Ray Operator and Dispenser and put directly under the General Superintendent in case of differences with the latter, she should have a right to appeal to the Governors through the General Superintendent.

Matron's Department

Much friction has arisen in connection with the duties of the Matron, as set down by the Board of Works at the time Miss Powell was appointed. Dr. Keegan holds that these duties are too numerous and too onerous to be undertaken by any one person, and has made representations and other efforts to have them amended. In part he has been successful, but trouble has arisen in these connections from conflict between amendments proposed by him and partially carried out, more or less informally set forth by the Board of Works, and which are only authoritative directions for the guidance of the Matron. We agree with Dr. Keegan that these duties are too onerous. We find also that the Matron's duties in regard to supplying, and more particularly that of checking them when received by the Hospital, cannot be carried out satisfactorily by the Matron. We find also that the Matron's duties in regard to the kitchen and dining of the other work of housekeeping for the Hospital, including the Superintendence of the Laundry and the Sewing Room, and the discipline of Kitchen Maids, when in other parts of the Hospital than the Kitchen. In regard to the latter, it would appear that the time has arrived for the long and faithful services of the Sewing Mistress to be rewarded with a pension and that the sewing department be placed on a more modern basis. We recommend that the Matron shall immediately go under the direction of the Superintendent of the Hospital. She shall make a daily inspection of all parts of the Hospital, (this would include servants' bedrooms, servants' dining rooms, and halls), shall visit the wards once a week or oftener if deemed necessary, make enquiries from the ward sisters as to necessary repairs to furniture, articles required for use in the wards, except Medical and Surgical requirements; be responsible for the discipline of the housemaids and charwomen, also of the kitchen and laundry maids when they are not under the control of the respective heads of their departments, and have charge of the linen room and all work done therein, the linen returned to and delivered therefrom.

Keep a diary daily of her inspection work and what was done by her. She shall hire all domestic servants subject to the approval of the Superintendent, and shall report all cases of conduct which she considers call for dismissal to the General Superintendent before dismissing those subordinate to her. In cases of differences with the General Superintendent, an appeal shall be given her to the Board of Governors through the General Superintendent.

Kitchen Superintendent

We recommend that the Kitchen be made a department, independent of the Matron's department, and that the Kitchen Superintendent be immediately under the General Superintendent of the Institution.

She shall be responsible for the preparation of all food, and have control of the Kitchen. The Kitchen staff shall be under her control during hours of work. She shall make out and sign requisitions to the Store-keeper for all Kitchen supplies. She shall hire all cooks and kitchen help subject to the approval of the General Superintendent, and shall report all cases of conduct which she considers call for dismissal to the General Superintendent before dismissing those subordinate to her. In cases of differences with the General Superintendent, an appeal shall be given her to the Board of Governors through the General Superintendent.

Superintendence of Nurses' Home

During the past few years Miss Cashin has suffered severely from ill-health, and she appears not to be in a fit state to continue in charge of the Nurses' Home. We recommend that suitable provision be made for her, and that she be retired from her duties. We are of opinion that on her retirement, a House-keeper for the Home should be appointed, and that the new House-keeper should be directly under the Superintendent of Nurses, with the object of enabling the latter to exercise control and influence over the Nurses who reside there, either directly or through the Assistant Superintendent of Nurses who should reside in the Home. We recommend that she should have charge and be responsible for the good order and cleanliness of the Home; make a daily inspection of all parts of the Home; have control of the servants in the Home; make and sign requisitions for all supplies required in the Home and forward same to the Store-keeper. She shall receive and keep an account of all supplies delivered at the Home; be present when meals are being served and that the same are served punctually and that proper food is supplied. Any complaints made shall be reported by her to the Superintendent of Nurses. In cases of differences with the Superintendent of Nurses, she should have the right of appeal to the Board of Governors, through the General Superintendent, and should be required to furnish a copy of the Appeal to the Superintendent of Nurses, who should have a right of comment on it, as should also the General Superintendent.

Male Nurses

Two Male Nurses shall be appointed by the General Superintendent, who shall, before entering upon their duties, undergo a course of training for a period of twelve months. They shall bath and shave all male patients; prepare them for operations under the direction of the nurse in charge of the Ward; convey them to and from the Operating Room; remove food, oral and dressings from the male wards, convey them to incinerator, and perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned them by the General Superintendent.

Afternoons Off And Holidays

Complaints have been made and we find on good grounds of head officials and those who act as deputies for them being absent from the Hospital at the same time. Dr. Keegan has expressed strong views on this matter and we think that this practice should be stopped. In a Hospital of the size and accommodation of the General Hospital, it appears to us imperative that a member of the Medical Staff should be always within the Hospital precincts that his services may be promptly availed of in any emergency. With the Medical Superintendent resident close at hand and two House Surgeons resident within the Hospital there should be no difficulty in arranging a sufficiency of leisure hours of recreation and rest to keep the medical staff in a fit state of health to do their work efficiently and at the same time to provide for one of them to be always available within the hospital precincts for any sudden call. We recommend that the General Superintendent be directed to make such arrangements as may be necessary.

(continued from page 3.)

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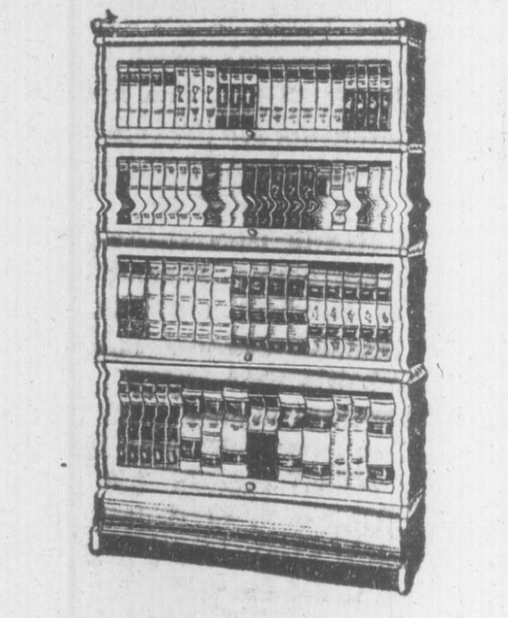
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