

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

MR. JUSTICE HODGINS' REPORT ON MEDICAL EDUCATION
AND PRACTICE.

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I.—NURSES.

IT is with much pleasure one reads the careful and exhaustive study his Lordship has given to the position that nurses should occupy in any system of medical education, worthy of the name, for this Province. The nurse has now come to occupy a most important position in the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics. That nurses should receive a proper training must be admitted by all, and the place for this training is the hospital. Some of the salient features of the report are worthy of close study. The following statement lays the foundation for the case:

"The situation is such that thanks are due to the nurses themselves and to the hospital authorities for the high position occupied by nurses trained at many training schools in Ontario. The weakness is one due to want both of co-ordination and the standardizing of preliminary and professional education. While nurses trained in large general hospitals, sanitarium, children's hospitals, etc., become extremely efficient in matters which their experience covers, the fact remains that each suffers lack in some one or more departments of nursing which cannot be made up in Ontario. For instance, a nurse in our Isolation Hospital may never see a case of purely nervous disorder, and one in a sanitarium may know nothing of the diet and care of an infant. The missing experience has to be sought elsewhere, because there is no provision made for it in Ontario, and it is to be found in the post-graduate courses in the United States, where so many of our nurses go, and, having gone, remain permanently."

The condition set out in the foregoing quotation has been before the minds of those who have taken an interest in the training and welfare of nurses. The Commissioner then proceeds as follows:

"Every effort should be made to prevent this, and to do so will need a very careful survey of the conditions existing in Ontario. But the remedy is clear, and that is co-ordination between and standardization of all hospital training schools, great and small, and whether devoted to infectious diseases, children's cases, tuberculosis, nervous disorders or general practice. In no other way can the lack which individual nurse suffers be made up. The smaller hospitals could give fundamental training in science, while the larger might give the varied but essential experience in different departments."