

HOME NURSING

BY

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IT was strongly felt during the International Home Nursing Instructors' meeting held in Geneva in June 1965 organised by the Nursing Bureau, League of Red Cross Societies that in order to make an effective approach to Health Education of the Public, Home Nursing Instruction should be imparted in the community by trained nurses.

Nurses by nature of their training and capacity to impart nursing instruction including practice of nursing procedures, are well qualified to give this service for the enhancement of good health in our country. The Home Nursing course is one of sixteen hours given in 8 sessions of 2 hours each, (one hour theory and one hour practice) and includes taking care of the sick and injured at home, helping to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and making good use of time, energy and money in caring for the sick. This course can be given to community people including housewives, social and village level workers, college students and secondary school children, who on successful completion of the course can obtain the St. John Ambulance Association Home Nursing Certificate which is valid throughout India.

In order that nurses may make an effective contribution to this important activity of the Indian Red Cross Society, I give below a few instructions in the methods

underlying the conduct and examination of the St. John Ambulance Association courses.

A convenient class room with necessary equipment for a group of 16 to 25 persons should be arranged where eight classes can be held once or twice a week, the ninth session being used to hold the examination. Any trained nurse is qualified to teach this course and the examination is conducted by a trained nurse other than the teacher. Two copies each of the Examination Form A/3 and the class Attendance Sheet A/16 should be obtained from the Secretary of your St. John Ambulance Association State Centre. These forms must be filled in duplicate, as one set will be retained by your Centre and the other sent to Headquarters in New Delhi for issue of certificates.

On the front page of the Examination Form, "Explanation of Marking the Paper" is printed which should be noted carefully by the Examiner in order to mark accurately. It is important for the candidates to give their signatures on both the examination forms, prior to conducting the examination.

Five questions must be asked—bandaging being compulsory, and if no paper is set, one question in *viva voce* must be given in its place. Maximum number of marks for each question is 20. Total for 5 questions is 100 marks out of which 50 per cent. is pass marks.

On the back page of the Examination Form, the Instructor must mention her/his name, qualifications (i.e. R.N., R.M. or B.Sc. (Nursing)) and full address. The Examiner, after making the necessary entries in the appropriate columns, must also sign clearly giving qualifications.

These forms in duplicate along with the Certificate fee of Re. 1 per successful candidate must be sent to the Secretary of your State St. John Ambulance Centre, who will forward one copy and the money to the Headquarters.

In the accompanying letter, it should be mentioned to whom you wish the certificates to be sent for distribution to the candidates after the Examiner has signed the Certificates.

A copy of the booklet "Regulations for Organisation, Instruction and Examination of classes etc."—price 30 paise, and the "Home Nursing Tutor's Guide"—price Rs. 3.35 per copy are available for sale with the Stores Officer, St. John Ambulance Association Stores Depot, 1 Red Cross Road, New Delhi—1, and may be obtained from him direct if desired.

I am grateful to the nurses who have been and are still giving this important service to the Red Cross and hope that other nurses will join us in helping to spread the teaching of Health in the Home to the general public.

The Effects of Labour on The Foetus and the Newborn—(Continued from page 18)

should be made before they are generally released. There is also a strong case, it felt, for doing the same with some drugs in current use.

Training and Research

Particularly in obstetrics, there is a grave shortage of clinical staff with a grounding in one or more of the basic or paramedical sciences. The Group therefore recommended that future specialists, early in their career, be enabled and encouraged to spend a year or more in a

department of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, or pathology.

The Group also included in its report a detailed list of recommended investigations, including some requiring both a clinical and a basic science approach.

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The conclusion that seems to follow from the Scientific Group's report is that there is ample scope for further improvement in the care of mother and child throughout

pregnancy and in labour. With increased knowledge of the complex processes involved in labour and in the adjustments made by the newborn infant to the extra-uterine environment, it would not be unduly optimistic to expect still further falls in perinatal mortality and morbidity and in the disturbances in later life that are most probably due to damage at this most critical period.

(With acknowledgements to WHO Chronicle)