we feel that she is living some where else." One sweeper said: "Sister corrected me once and I do not feel like repeating the same mistake again."

Sister Gunn had passed her second Tamil examination while at the Mission Hospital in Ramnad, and added to her Tamil which was already fluent by further study even during her busy days at Vellore. She was able to lead a weekly fellowship class with the Bible women and to stimulate their interest and deepen their faith.

Sister Gunn had a very keen sense of duty and was spartan to a degree where her own personal pleasure and comfort were concerned. She insisted on putting first things first and took many to task whom she felt were not doing the same. No one will ever do all that she did, many will have to see that the patients she served so faithfully through careful teaching of all the ward helpers do not suffer because she has passed on to serve her Lord in closer communion. V. K. P.

BRITAIN TRAINS ASSISTANT NURSES

The State Enrolled Assistant Nurse is a new figure in the British Hospital. As the name implies, she is trained to assist the fully qualified nurses, who will thereby be left more time for specialised duties

The training takes two years. the first two months or so being considered as a trial period, The pupil assistant nurses first enter a preliminary training school, where for a period of 4 weeks, they are taught the routine of ward work, such as bed-making, toilet of patients etc The arrangement of the training then differs slightly in the different approved training schools In some schools, the "block" system of training is practised, in which the pupil assistant nurses go back to the school for lectures on the subjects laid down in the syllabus of training. These "blocks" generally take place at the end of the first year, and before the simple written and practical test carried out by the General Nursing Council's nurse assessors for admission to the Roll of Assistant Nurses In other training schools, the theoretical part of the training is carried on alongside the practical work in the wards

During the two years' training, at least one year is spent in the nursing of the chronic sick. The remainder of the time may include work in an infectious diseases hospital and or in a sanatorium. Hospitals are affiliated for the purposes of training, and approved as "complete" or "component" schools by the General Nursing Council. Salaries and conditions of service are covered by the recommendations of the Rushcliffe Committee.

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Why did I fail?

An Examiner Suggests Possible Reasons

By MRS. WILLIAM THOMAS (nee DOROTHY COUSINS), S.R.N., S.C.M., S.T. Certificate, formerly Sister Tutor, Central Middlesex Hospital, and Travelling Sister Tutor for County of Hertford

If you have passed all your examinations at the first attempt this article is *not* for you!

There are many reasons why candidates fail examinations and unless the unfortunate person concerned can find out wherein her weakness lies she is liable

to continue to fail with monotonous and depressing regularity. If, therefore, you are one to whom success is always 'just round the corner', study the reasons set out below and try to decide honestly and fairly which is your particular deficiency.

Broadly speaking, failures may be said to arise from :—

1. *Lack of sufficient knowledge of the subject.*
2. *Extreme nervousness and lack of confidence. (This is often linked up with (1).*
3. *Insufficient attention to details of the examination, e.g., failure to answer compulsory questions, or an attempt to answer too many questions in the time set.*
4. *Insufficient attention to the exact import and scope of the question asked.*
5. *Inability to formulate ideas clearly, express oneself plainly and think quickly.*
6. *Over-confidence of knowledge of the subject and omissions in consequence, of essential details which are taken for granted by the candidate, but not by the examiner.*
7. *Inability to get "en rapport" with examiners at oral and practical examinations. (This is a far less common cause than candidates believe!).*
8. *Insufficient time allowed to reach examination centre with resulting rush and breathless arrival at the last minute.*

Failure in some instances may be due to a combination of two or more of the foregoing, but unless you attempt seriously to decide on your faults, whether they be few or many, you will be unable to set yourself on the road to success. Having discovered your weak points you must next set to work to strengthen them and here you may need a little help. It really depends on what your weakness is, whether the cure lies in your own hands.

If you are suffering from lack of knowledge obviously you must work little harder. Perhaps you rather shirked a subject which did not hold your interest ? If this is so a little will-power and concentration are all you need. If, however, you have found one or more subjects really very difficult to grasp, studying on your own will not help you very much as you probably need the subject matter presented to you in a different way and you should take steps to receive some further coaching.

Extreme nervousness and lack of confidence are not easy to overcome and outside help is definitely needed from some understanding person who can instil in you the confidence you need and at the same time, improve your knowledge of the subject. If you have a complete knowledge at your fingertips you are going to feel much more sure of yourself next time.

So many candidates do not read instructions clearly and if you have left a compulsory question unanswered you are foredoomed to failure. Similarly if you have answered four questions when you need only have done three, they are probably all done sketchily and you will be assessed on the first three only.

Instructions are not the only part of an examination paper to be misread. Questions are commonly answered from the wrong angle or irrelevant matter may be included. If this is one of your difficulties you should practise reading past

examination questions very carefully and answering them, and then take them to someone more qualified than yourself for unbiased criticism. If you persevere at this success should be yours next time.

Inability to write good answers to questions and to formulate ideas clearly is treated in the same way. If y. u are to overcome this you *must* practise writing papers and you *must* have someone who is qualified to do so to criticise and advise you.

Watch the "Easy" Questions !

A question which appears easy is rarely done so well as one which is difficult, because the latter has much thought expended on it whereas the former is answered more rapidly and many important points are usually left out. Bear in mind that examiners give no credit for subject matter not included and take nothing for granted, not even the points which you think are obvious.

In spite of some candidates' opinions, examiners are really very human and are anxious to find out what you know and want to pass you. If you try answer what is asked, and, in the practical room, pay attention to all the little details which matter when setting up for treatments or handling your patient, you should do well. Occasionally an examiner cannot get any answer at all out of a candidate. If this is the case what else can he do but fail her ? If this has happened to you the best thing you can do is to arrange to answer oral questioning as much as possible and if possible, arrange for further coaching classes.

The last cause of failure should never occur but it does do so in these difficult times. Next time, allow yourself a good half-hour longer than you think you will need and if possible, have your day off for your examination so that you are not rushed or worried first thing in the morning.

There is no reason why you should not sit again and succeed so may I remind you that you should study carefully the conditions for re-entries as issued.

Discover where you "slipped up" and correct it. GOOD LUCK!

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Examining Technique

By R.S. TRUEMAN (East London), M.B., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., Examiner to General Nursing Council of England and Wales; Examiner to Nursing Committee S A. Medical Council,

We are all familiar with the man who is brilliant in his subject, and yet is quite incapable of imparting it to others; hence the group of bad lecturers in every University. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London realise this and makes a practice of appointing to its staff men who are both excellent at their work and good teachers. In the same way there are well informed examiners who have little idea of how to examine; in the London examination halls, we used to say there should be an examination for examiners

The candidate nurse up for her "oral" in her preliminary examination is emotional material She is often appearing for a verbal exam. for the first time, and she is very nervous; she may not have slept for two or three nights before she appears—usually the final year candidate is harder bitten than she, and not so easily shaken. In England there is an oral examination in Anatomy and Physiology conducted by medical men—this is good and should be introduced in South Africa.