TRAIN TO BE A NURSE

at Salisbury
Cover picture—the Infirmary, the oldest of the three branches of Salisbury General Hospital in Fisherton Street.
Two hundred years ago, when the profession of nursing was in its infancy, nurses at Salisbury Infirmary had to clean the wards by seven in the morning during the summer. In the winter months they were allowed a slight relaxation; the work then had to be done by 8 a.m.

Nurses, as they were called, though their conditions and responsibilities bore no comparison to present-day nursing, received £5 a year for their labours with a gratuity of £1 and allowances for “diet, washing and lodging”. Their work was concerned mainly with the administration of meals and medicine to patients and with the changing and cleanliness of beds.

All this is a far cry from the conditions of today at Salisbury General Hospital, or indeed at any other hospital. Young men and women entering nursing can now look forward to a career, which is not only personally rewarding but materially attractive. Today’s nurse is not just well paid; she is also well cared for.

Gone long ago are the days of drudgery and domestic chores. The modern nurse is a qualified, skilled and responsible professional whose services are always in demand. Unlimited opportunities are open to the qualified nurse in many fields and in many countries, too.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Infirmary, at the end of the nineteenth century, the matron of that time was faced with a shortage of nurses. To find new recruits the matron sent notices to all the villages surrounding Salisbury pointing out the advantages to “young, strong and respectable women who would be taught how to look after sick people”.

Although these are still desirable attributes of anyone entering nursing, the accent is now more upon skill and professional ability. As medicine and the treatment of the sick have made great strides, so have the expertise and the status of the nurse.
Salisbury's three

Nurses nowadays can concentrate on their real job—bedside care of the sick. The labours of former years have been replaced by a training and a career which embrace the most modern methods and skills in a progressive and stimulating atmosphere. Nowhere is this more so than at Salisbury.

Salisbury General Hospital, like so many other provincial hospitals was originally supported by voluntary funds, caring, more often than not, for poor people. The hospital's motto—"The sick and needy shall not always be forgotten"—sums up this pre-occupation.

Salisbury Hospital was founded over 200 years ago. Its original premises were a converted row of cottages. The first permanent building dates from 1771 and forms the centre block of the present Infirmary. If the site is still the same, the modern hospital cannot be compared to its predecessor of the 1770s.

Today, Salisbury General Hospital is three hos-
hospitals in one

hospitals in one, and each hospital has its own traditions and entity. In Salisbury, right in the heart of the busy
but pleasant city, stands the Infirmary, the oldest of
the three branches and one of the oldest in the whole
of the provinces. Here are the busy wards for general
medicine and surgery, the ophthalmic unit, the
coronary and intensive care unit and the accident
and emergency centre.

The two other branches are a short distance
outside Salisbury. The Newbridge branch specialises
in geriatric cases. The Odstock branch has 23 wards
for such specialties as ear, nose and throat surgery,
paediatrics and orthopaedics and including the
maternity department with its midwifery training
school.

Odstock is internationally famous for its re-
gional centre for plastic surgery and its newly-
built regional burns unit, which incorporates the most
modern facilities for nursing and treatment.
(Above, left) An enrolled nurse and a pupil nurse working in an orthopaedic ward.
(Above, right) In the treatment room attached to the ear, nose and throat ward at Odstock.
(Right) Checking the reading of a cardiac monitor at the Infirmary branch.
A century of nurse training

Nurses have been trained for over a hundred years in Salisbury. Florence Nightingale almost became a trainee at Salisbury—but her parents wouldn’t let her come, as conditions in 1844 were hardly what they are today. One cannot, perhaps, blame them. The first training superintendent was appointed in 1857 and the first training school set up in 1870.

The first nurses' home was not provided until 1901 and it was only then that special provision was made for nurses. They had their own bedrooms and sitting rooms and there were classrooms, too. A three-year training course was introduced with lectures by medical staff and the matron. The better conditions and the organised training attracted a large number of nurses but only a small number could be taken on. There was, in fact, a waiting list in spite of the long hours that nurses worked and the poor financial rewards offered 70 years' ago.

Since the beginning of this century, there have been continued improvements both in working conditions and in training facilities for nurses. In 1930, the first training in midwifery was started at Salisbury. Now there is an approved training school for part II of the certificate of the Central Midwives Board and, through its district nursing staff, Salisbury General Hospital undertakes all of the domiciliary midwifery for the city.

Following the general introduction of educational qualifications for nurses in training just before the last war, the need for improved preparation of nurses before working on the wards led, in 1947, to the establishment of a preliminary training school. In 1950, a post graduate course of nurse training in plastic surgery was introduced and another landmark was reached three years later with the setting up of a pre-
nursing course at the then Salisbury Technical School. A training scheme for assistant nurses at the Newbridge branch was started in 1957.

Although the past is viewed with pride, it can be seen that with these and later developments, the Salisbury School of Nursing has been in the forefront of nursing progress. The latest, and perhaps the most exciting, innovation is a special training scheme, begun in 1969, which combines the S.R.N. qualification with the Diploma in Nursing of London University—a challenging course!

Salisbury General Hospital now provides a major training ground for student nurses. Increasing numbers of medical students from teaching hospitals are also attached to Salisbury General Hospital for clinical studies. Nurses gain experience in the many and varied fields of nursing, which makes the courses available at Salisbury stimulating and satisfying. The specialised work of the Hospital also offers excellent opportunities for post registration studies for S.R.N.s and S.E.N.s, for example, second part midwifery training and a 12 months' course in operating theatre technique and management with secondment for neuro-surgical and thoracic surgical experience. For those wishing to specialise in ear, nose and throat work there are facilities for studying for the Diploma or the Proficiency Certificate of the Midland Institute of Otology. The Salisbury General Hospital certificate for training in plastic surgery was the first in the country to be recognised by the British Association of Plastic Surgeons.

(Above) Night duty in a ward at the Oldstock branch of Salisbury General Hospital.
(Below) A staff midwife instructing a student in the midwifery unit at Oldstock.
The Salisbury School of Nursing

The teaching department of Salisbury General Hospital is one of the most modern in the country. Situated in pleasant surroundings in the centre of the City and only a short distance from the Infirmary, the School of Nursing has large, bright and well-equipped lecture and practical rooms. There is also an extensive library with excellent study facilities.

The staff of the School of Nursing consists of a Principal with a team of tutors—experienced nurses who have taken a university course in nurse education—and clinical teachers, all of them keenly interested in the training and welfare of the students. All students—courses are open to men and women—follow well-planned courses in the theory and practice of nursing. The latest techniques in education are used including discussions, tutorials, seminars and projects together with audio-visual aids—tape recorders, teaching machines and projectors.

Training in nursing is a blend of classroom teaching and clinical work, students being allocated to the wards and departments to meet the needs of their particular training programme. Visits are made to the day school for handicapped children, the rehabilitation workshops and the model kitchen for re-education of disabled patients, and outside the Hospital with the district nurse and health visitor to study health care in the community.

The Salisbury School of Nursing has an extensive library with excellent study facilities.
Classroom teaching in a lecture room at the School of Nursing.

A clinical teacher with two students in one of the well equipped practical rooms.
It's not all work

Training to be a nurse can be hard work but it is by no means all work. Holidays for nurses during training are generous—up to five weeks a year and with pay, too. And there are many opportunities for leisure and recreation during off-duty hours.

The residences are modern and comfortable, attractively furnished and decorated and offering all home comforts—and a few more besides. Nurses are only required to live in during their first year of training. They will find that they have their own bedroom, and can enjoy and share with other nurses bright and well-equipped rest and recreation rooms with radio and television, laundry and shampoo rooms and many other facilities. There are indoor games rooms, and tennis and badminton courts, with coaching provided.

Salisbury and the surrounding countryside offer a host of activities and interests. Apart from being a most
attractive, historic cathedral City, Salisbury is a thriving and busy centre providing excellent shopping and many attractions—sporting, social and cultural—for its population of over 36,000 and many visitors each year.

Almost every type of outdoor recreation is catered for in the area. Golf, tennis, badminton, cricket, football, hockey and horse racing are well supported by individual enthusiasts and clubs. There is a large swimming pool and boating on the river Avon. During the summer, a well-equipped beach hut is available at Bournemouth for staff.

Salisbury is well situated within easy reach of London and the South Coast with good rail and road connections. The countryside around and near to Salisbury is as varied as it is beautiful from Salisbury Plain to the New Forest. A wealth of places of interest, including ancient Stonehenge and several stately homes, are close by.
(Below) Nurses shopping in one of the new shopping precincts in Salisbury.
(Right, above) A service in the chapel at the Infirmary branch.
(Right, below) Relaxing in the sunshine in the garden of one of the residences.
Anyone off duty?
Let’s go canoeing riding to tennis or dancing

Almost every type of outdoor recreation is catered for in Salisbury and the surrounding area. There are also opportunities for relaxation indoors at Salisbury General Hospital.
The next steps

If you are considering a career in nursing, you could do no better than to come and train at Salisbury. Whether or not you have made up your mind, or are just interested and want to find out more than this booklet can tell you, do write to the Matron or Principal Tutor at Salisbury General Hospital.

A career in nursing offers a wide choice for specialisation. The variety of posts open to the qualified nurse includes hospital or community work, general or children's nursing, midwifery or nursing the mentally ill. All these could lead to senior appointments in nursing administration or teaching.

There is a wide choice in the place where you can work as a nurse—not only in a hospital but in the patient's own home, in a school, a factory, in the armed forces—and abroad, too. The choice is yours. Make it now. Train to be a good nurse at Salisbury General Hospital.
The courses available

S.R.N.—the key to an exciting career

State Registration opens the door to many careers in nursing—as staff nurse and charge nurse, in nurse education or nursing administration. The three-year course is open to men and women.

You must be 18 and have at least four G.C.E. 'O' levels or the equivalent C.S.E. passes including English or Welsh Language, or English Literature, or History and a science subject, but special consideration will be given to suitable candidates who do not have the normal requirements.

Schools begin in January, May and September preparing the student in three years for State Registration (S.R.N.). The final examinations are held in February, June and October.

The registered nurse needs to know about many subjects including anatomy, physiology, microbiology, psychology, psychiatry, nutrition and pharmacology. All these are studied during the course.

In the first year, students learn the essentials of basic nursing techniques and principles, in a short period of orientation followed by ward work and periods devoted to study. During these "study blocks" the student's knowledge is broadened to include medical and surgical nursing.

The second and third year study periods include more specialised aspects of nursing—ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat conditions, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, neurology and community health and welfare. Lectures are given by tutors and by doctors and specialists in the various fields.

The sessions in the Teaching Department are so placed between periods on the ward that the student gains clinical experience relating theory to practice. The student has the opportunity to see other specialised aspects of health and welfare, such as obstetrics, psychiatry and visits with the health visitor and district nurse.

Throughout the course the student's progress is assessed by the Principal and tutors. Ward reports and examinations are taken into account. The hospital final examination is taken shortly before the statutory final examination of the General Nursing Council, the controlling body. A hospital badge and certificate are awarded on successful completion of the course.
at Salisbury

This scheme offers one of the most challenging special courses being developed in the country. Designed for students with G.C.E. at advanced level, it looks to the future developments in nursing.

The aim of the course, which is run in co-operation with the Salisbury and South Wilts College of Further Education, is to give the most suitable training for nurses who will be not only highly trained professionally but at the same time aware of the many factors making up the lives of the patients who come under their care.

In these days of specialisation, a liberal education is essential and nowhere more so than in nursing. Nurses may be trained and efficient in all the techniques of the profession, but their main contact is with the individual patient. So nurses must be sufficiently educated on a wide basis to understand the varied personalities with whom they have to deal. This can only be achieved by a more general study of a number of subjects.

Students are given an opportunity to develop their own specialised training alongside a wider background of understanding of social problems, both national and international, which are part of present-day life. The course, through the medium of liberal studies, also enables students to develop their own interests and personalities and gives them a broad background of knowledge. Study of a modern language is included in the syllabus, along with the study of European countries as a whole.

The Salisbury and South Wilts College of Further Education works closely with the Hospital in supplying suitable courses in the academic field, which supplement some of the practical work. Students are encouraged to take part in the activities of the social community of the College.

To qualify for the course, students must be 18 and have passed the G.C.E. in five subjects including English, a science subject and at least two subjects at advanced level.

Qualifications which can be obtained are registration as a nurse (S.R.N.) and the Diploma in Nursing of the University of London (D.N.(Lond.)). For students who wish to receive a supplementary course of training, qualifications are either the certificate of the Council for the Training of Health Visitors (H.V. Cert.) or Registration in Mental Nursing (R.M.N.).

Date of entry for the course is early September each year. The course lasts four years with an optional additional period for the Health Visitor’s certificate or the certificate of Registered Mental Nurses. A short introductory period is spent in the School of Nursing, when students are introduced to hospital life and the basic skills of nursing. Following this period of orientation, students are allocated to wards for clinical experience working with the ward team. These are supernumerary to the ward staff.

The course tutors and clinical teachers supervise and encourage the student. Tutorials are given throughout the course in the School, clinics and wards. As the student progresses, more specialised
experience is gained and in the first three years almost all types of nursing are observed and practised. The student not only gains experience in the Hospital but observes the work of health visitors and district nurses in the community.

Three and a half days a week are spent on the wards and the other one and a half days at the College. In the College the student follows a varied course of study including sociology, psychology, anatomy, physiology, liberal studies and a modern language.

The final examination of the General Nursing Council is taken after 2½ years and part 'A' of the Diploma in Nursing four months later. For the fourth year, the student is promoted to staff nurse, studying general medical or surgical nursing for part 'B' of the Diploma. This course is recognised as an excellent preparation for senior nursing appointments.

This is an ideal course for those who want to nurse but who do not wish to undertake the studies required for the two other courses. The enrolled nurse is "the nurse at the bedside", a rewarding and satisfying position. Training lasts two years.

Preferred entry qualifications are two G.C.E. passes at 'O' level or the equivalent C.S.E. passes, but consideration will be given to other applicants. Eighteen is the minimum age of entry and the course is suitable for older students, too.

Courses start twice a year in March and September with a short period of orienta-
tion to give the student an insight into the essentials of nursing care and techniques.

The pupil's time is spent at the bedside, learning skills under the supervision of clinical teachers and trained nurses. Many wards are visited to give the pupil varied and interesting experience during training.

Throughout the two-year training, pupils spend short periods in the School of Nursing gaining the background knowledge needed to perform nursing skills with expertise and confidence in the ward situation. During the second year of training, pupils also receive lectures from the medical staff, visit specialised clinics and observe the work of the district nurses.

Examinations are taken towards the end of the second year and consist of a short written, and a practical test. When the nurse completes two years' training, application can be made for State Enrolment. There are a number of further courses open after enrolment and, following further study, there is the possibility of an appointment as a senior enrolled nurse.

For those unable to follow a full-time course there are facilities for a part-time course lasting two years and eight months, which is very popular with those who have family commitments but feel the need for some worthwhile work. On successful completion of a course leading to State Enrolment, a Hospital badge and certificate are awarded.