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how feasible it is to raise the standards of the schools. As she does, some of us will be incredulous, never having heard of such things before; some will be sarcastic, for dwelling downstairs has made them scornful and skeptical; some will be inspired but constrained because of ridicule or possible failure; some will actually try to walk upstairs and will slip back because our unaccustomed muscles are not strong enough; and some of us will actually get there. In order to do so we must have an open-mindedness to call for a departure from conventional customs and modes. There must be a faith in objective guidance not less than in subjective intention, and we must have foresight and courage to face new conditions with a pioneer spirit divorced from any contempt for the past.

Still there are those of us who feel strongly that these troublesome times and circumstances dictate that we spend all our time downstairs for the duration. Yet, I do not agree for as one travels up and down the east or the west coast during the current dim-outs, he is impressed that as the lights of the earth grow dim, the lights of the stars of the heavens grow brighter. As the incandescent barriers to the beauties of the heavens are eliminated, one sees more

clearly the realities of the wonders of nature. If it is black enough, one can see the heavenly light very clearly. It is during times like these that patterns for the future are being established. Hence, I entreat "The Lady Upstairs" to extend invitations more frequently.

Within the walls of our hospitals are many schools. We cannot know too much about them all. We need enlightenment and understanding from the League to give us the necessary enlargement of mind and receptivity of spirit. The American Hospital Association looks to the League for sympathetic guidance in nursing education. If this be secured and we can cooperate, then we shall be able to say fifty years hence, as we say tonight,

Shadows loom down there, shades of great women of the past. They were great women, those ancestors. They were as great as women can be when rising each by herself alone, out of the dark valley depths. But on the high plateau of the future other great women will arise who need not start from the depths below—they will start from the mountain ridge of the new life. And so their shining peaks will rise to infinite heights.³

³ Paraphrase of POOLE, ERNEST: *Beggar's Gold*.

[Read at the banquet celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the National League of Nursing Education, Chicago, Illinois, June 16, 1943.]

The Senior Cadet Nurse

By EUGENIA K. SPALDING, R.N.

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STUDENTS admitted to schools of nursing on or after January 1, 1941, are eligible at once to become members of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, provided their programs of required instruction and experience have been accelerated to twenty-four to thirty-two months. Students who have been admitted after January 1, 1942, are eligible to join if their programs have been accelerated to twenty-four to thirty months.

It is imperative that schools become active at once in accelerating programs, in securing approval of state boards of nurse examiners for such programs, in applying to the U. S. Public

Health Service for federal funds, and in recruiting qualified students.

Nursing students in the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps are called *precadet nurses* during the first nine months of the basic program (training period).¹ During the next fifteen to twenty-one months they are called *junior cadet nurses*. In some instances students will be graduated at the end of the junior cadet period. In many instances regulations of state boards of nurse examiners will require that the training period

¹ PETRY, LUCILE: U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, p. 704 of this issue.

be thirty-six months in length. The time beyond the precadet and junior cadet periods is termed the senior cadet period. The students in this period are called *senior cadet nurses*. In case a school of nursing could provide essential instruction and experience in twenty-four months, the senior cadet period could be twelve months or less. In a school in which the essential instruction and experience is accelerated to thirty months, the senior cadet period could be six months or less. *In any event, the length of the period would depend on state board requirements of the individual state and the requirements for graduation of the school.*

As plans evolve, further information will be published and schools and state boards informed.

Definition of senior cadet period.—The senior cadet period is that part of the basic nursing program for the Cadet Nurse Corps following the twenty-four to thirty months of combined study and practice for precadet and junior cadet nurses. It might be considered as a period of internship. The content may be variable.

Rôle of school of nursing: assigning institution.—The home school will decide, after it is known how many senior cadet nurses, if any, are to be assigned to federal nursing services, the number of senior cadets to be retained in the hospital connected with it and will arrange satisfactory experience. It will be responsible for arranging the supervised experience for senior cadet nurses in much the same way as in the case of affiliations in the precadet and junior cadet periods, when the senior cadets are sent to other institutions. In such instances written agreements should be made by the school of nursing with the institutions to which the senior cadet nurses are to be assigned.

Points to be considered in such agreements are:

1. Type of nursing experience to be offered.
2. Length of such experience.
3. Weekly hours of nursing practice.
4. Arrangements for supervision.
5. Financial arrangements such as those concerning the provision of maintenance, including housing, food, and laundry, and payment of monthly stipend.
6. Living arrangements.
7. Transportation costs, if not to be assumed by the student.
8. Student records, care during illness, and time allowance for illness.

9. Method by which contract can be changed or terminated.

The Bolton Act provides that when a student desires transfer to a federal nursing service and the federal service has requested transfer, the school must make the transfer.

If the student desires a transfer to a federal nursing service, the school should arrange for her to express that desire prior to or within six months of completion of the junior cadet period. Students who become senior cadet nurses before October 1, 1943, will need to indicate their desire for transfer as early as possible.

Directors of schools will probably desire to compile a record of student preferences of transfer to federal hospitals and of other senior cadet assignments. Estimates show that the number of students that can be assigned to the federal nursing services will not be disproportionate to the number to be assigned to civilian institutions.

Rôle of receiving institutions and agencies.—A large proportion of the senior cadet nurses will in most instances doubtless be retained in the hospital or hospitals connected with the home school. Some may be assigned to civilian hospitals other than those connected with the home school, to suitable community agencies such as public health nursing agencies, and to federal hospitals under the Army, Navy, Public Health Service, Veterans Administration, and Office of Indian Affairs.

Civilian hospitals and community agencies desiring to use senior cadet nurses could make this fact known to a school or schools of their choice. If senior cadet nurses are available for extramural assignment, schools can make the necessary arrangements through contract or agreement.

The federal nursing services will prepare a list of hospitals which will be utilized for senior cadet nurses, indicating the number of senior cadet nurses that can be accommodated and a list of dates upon which specified numbers of senior cadets can be accepted. When the respective federal nursing services decide how schools can make the necessary arrangements for the transfer of senior cadet nurses, this will be announced. It is possible that such arrangements

will be made through the respective offices of the federal nursing services in Washington, or each of these services may work out a plan of decentralization on a regional basis through which such agreements are made with the schools receiving federal funds.

Suggested content of experience.—The supervised experience during the senior cadet period could include experience in any one or more of the following clinical services: medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, psychiatric, tuberculosis, communicable disease, or experience in an outpatient department or a public health agency such as a public health nursing organization. Such experience might include teaching, especially, for university or college graduates.

It is hoped that such experience will supplement and round out that in the precadet and junior cadet periods. For example, if the student has had no experience in psychiatric nursing prior to the senior cadet period, such experience would be recommended in many cases. If the available experience in the senior cadet period is predominantly medical or surgical, these services could probably be somewhat shortened in the precadet and junior cadet periods, to find time for other experience.

It is essential, of course, that whatever is arranged meet the requirements for graduation of the school and requirements for registration of the state board in the individual states.

Rôle of the National League of Nursing Education.—The National League of Nursing Education expects to make recommendations concerning the supervised experience in the senior cadet period. A bulletin useful to directors of schools of nursing and to members of state boards of nurse examiners in planning for the senior cadet period will be published very shortly by the League's Committee on Educational Problems in Wartime.

Rôle of state boards of nurse examiners.—In many instances the schools will ask representatives of the state boards of nurse examiners for advice. It will be helpful if state boards prepare lists of civilian hospitals, other community agencies, and federal hospitals which desire to use senior cadet nurses and which are approved by them. With this information at hand, the state boards of nurse

examiners might serve as clearing houses.

Rôle of the U. S. Public Health Service.—The U. S. Public Health Service will (1) review the plans on senior cadet periods from the schools, (2) offer consultation service concerning the use of these periods, (3) give assistance in the event more senior cadet nurses desire to be assigned to the federal hospitals than can be accommodated, and (4) make reports from time to time on the way the plan is working out.

What the student should know about the senior cadet period.—The student should be informed as to whether or not she is to graduate at the end of the junior cadet period or if a senior cadet period will be planned for her. She should also be informed that during the senior cadet period the institution in which the student practices pays her a monthly stipend of not less than \$30 and provides her maintenance. Although senior cadet nurses may give service in both civilian and federal institutions, the student who desires a transfer to a federal nursing service may request such transfer, if an appropriate request for the transfer is made also by the nursing service. If the student is to assume transportation costs during this period she should be so informed.

Advantages for senior cadet nurses are almost limitless. Variety of experience and the opportunity for trying out new types of work with greater responsibilities are assets in helping the senior cadet to make a choice of a field in nursing. For the student who has made such choice, it will be possible to provide necessary experience for entering the chosen field upon graduation or in deciding the type of advanced study to pursue. For example, the student who desires to join the Army Nurse Corps or the Navy Nurse Corps has the privilege of choosing such experience for the senior cadet period. If the student does not desire to go to, or is not needed in, a federal hospital, the opportunities to serve and to learn in civilian hospitals and in community agencies, such as a public health nursing organization, are numerous and rich.

By far the great preponderance of senior cadet nurses will be needed for civilian care. Only a relatively small portion of the total number of senior cadets will be needed in federal nursing services.