

St. Joseph's Hospital School Of Nursing Trains Young Women For Care Of Sick

Study Courses At St. Joseph's Include Training
In General Care Of Patients; Specialized Cases, Psychiatry



ON OCTOBER 2, 1938, Miss Lena Meehan, of Elmira, approached the doors of St. Joseph's Hospital to apply for admission to nursing training. She was the hospital's first student nurse. At the time she had just completed her high school education and was now in the fifth year of her college course. The growth of that seed has been nourished and fostered with loving care and has paralleled the growth of nursing as a profession.

In a month, she was joined by Miss Catherine Sullivan of Rochester, and together they constituted the young seed which constituted St. Joseph's Hospital Training School for Nurses. January, 1939, brought another Elmira girl, Miss Harriet Keavin, and February of the same year, Miss Josephine Tyranski of Corning. The need for individual, on-the-spot instruction was quickly recognized, and formal classes were organized. Sister Rose Alice, the doctors, and the head nurses contributed to this early nursing program.

The basic curriculum at this time included classes in anatomy, bacteriology, materia medica, dietetics, surgery, medicine, obstetrics and pediatrics. Each doctor lectured in his own specialty and gave his own examinations. The number of hours of formal class was few in comparison with today, but these four pupils and their classmates and supplies well the requirements and supplemented the head nurses with expert guidance during long hours on duty.

THEIR WORK WAS DIFFICULT including even washing dishes; their rewards were few, time off a luxury. However, they persevered, and to their zeal, the nurses of 1938 owe a real debt of gratitude.

By 1916, when St. Joseph's nursing school became registered by the New York State Department of Education, the number of class hours totaled two hundred eighty-two. At this time, the minimum educational requirement for admission was the completion of grammar school, but one year of high-school was preferred.

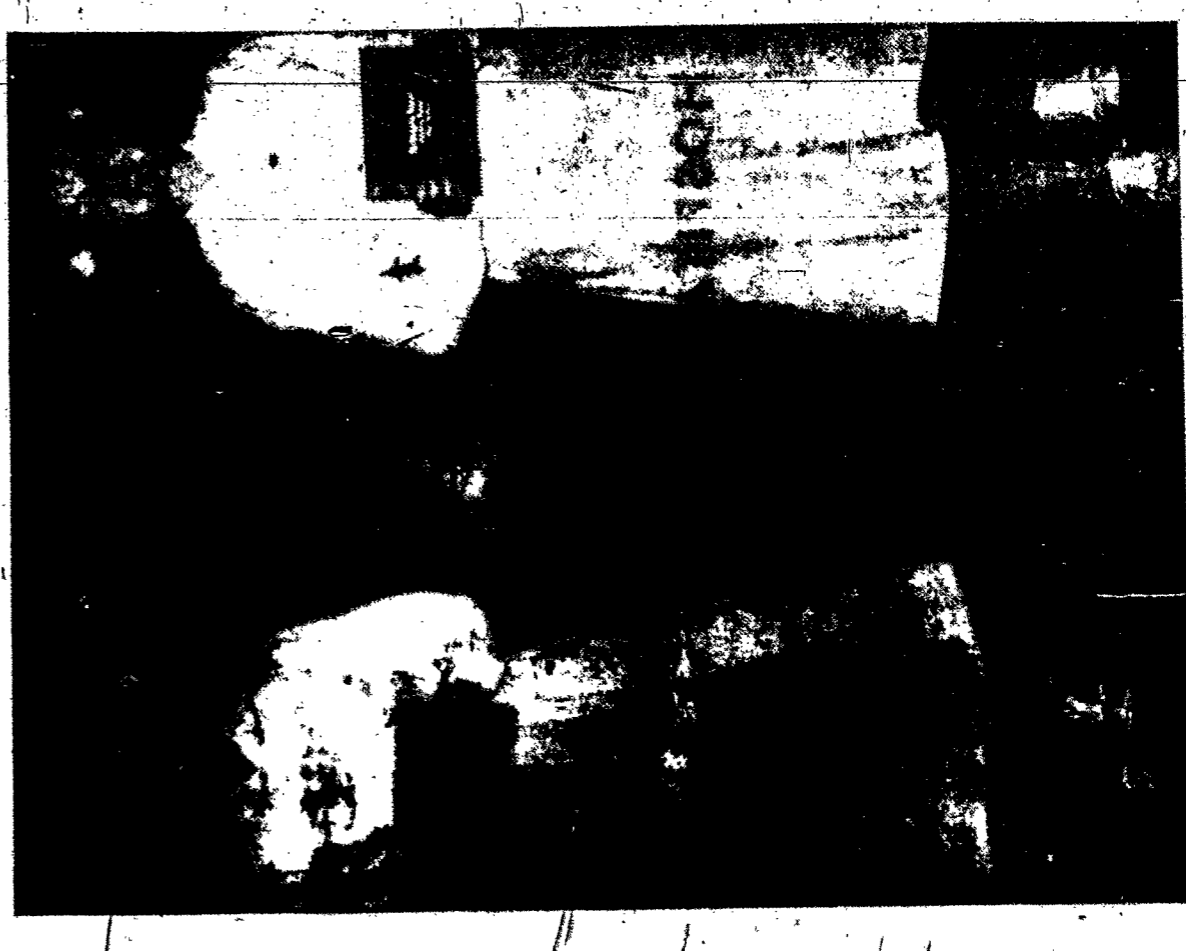
Students were given a probation period of twelve weeks. If they appeared to have the necessary health and aptitude for nursing they were permitted to continue the remaining thirty months of the course. Each consisted of six hours at night with a vacation of two weeks each year.

During Sister Anastasia's term of office begun in 1916 the course of formal classroom teaching was increased and references for the students were emphasized on learning in actual hospital situations. The outstanding accomplishments of Sister Anastasia's tenure were the approval of the School of Nursing by the New York State Department of Education and its accreditation by the New York State Board of Nurse Examiners.

During Sister Mary Robert's administration, 1922-1932, the preliminary course for beginning students was established. This new suggestion was made available to the

Student nurses have time for fun between serious studies.

Students as also the improved clinical facilities in surgical and pediatric service and a well-equipped diet laboratory to provide supervised practice prior to assignment on the hospital wards; and a full-time laboratory technician was appointed as a science instructor.



with individual equipment for sixteen students was added.

By 1924, the average was shown to be graduates who had completed high school, although the minimum requirement for admission was two years. The preliminary course was lengthened to sixteen weeks and night duty was reduced to ten hours.

It was in 1930 that graduation from a high school was made a requirement for entrance into the school.

The students worked a fifty-four hour week and class hours which totaled six hundred eighty-eight for the three-year period were taken from their time off duty. The last year of Sister Mary Robert's tenure was culminated by the opening of the spacious Edward J. Dunn Memorial Nurses' Residence, consisting of ten stories, with a dining room, a combined auditorium and gymnasium, more adequate classrooms and laboratory facilities, a library, cafeteria and recreational facilities fulfilled a long-felt need for the students.

In 1932 Sister Margaret Mary succeeded Sister Mary Robert as Director of the Nursing School.

Sister Margaret Mary brought about the employment of a general duty group to stabilize the nursing service of the hospital. Shorter night duty hours and longer vacations were realized during this time. A plan was realized during this time. A plan was realized during this time. A plan was realized during this time.

The nursing school library was developed during Sister Margaret Mary's term, and the ward teaching program for the students was improved. Recreational facilities in the nurses' residence for the students were improved.

In 1934, the Nursing School South (Continued on page 7-13)

Graduates proudly display their diplomas in St. Joseph's nursing school chapel dedicated to St. Theresa the Little Flower.

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Thanks Be To God

for the influence of the good Sisters of St. Joseph on the daily life within the City of Elmira.

By their conduct towards others in the operation of St. Joseph's Hospital, Catholic and Non-Catholic, the Commandment "Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself" has been and will always continue to be . . . happily obeyed.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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TO THE SISTERS AND STAFF OF:

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

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