

Nurses, Experience of. Nursing, Defined.

Unless the service performed in a doctor's office is in the nature of aid to the sick, it cannot be termed following the vocation of nursing as a business, as provided for in Sec. 10, Chap. 50, Laws 1913.

June 17, 1914.

Miss Lucy M. Marshall, R. N.,
Missoula, Montana.

Dear Miss Marshall:

Replying to yours of the 9th instant, wherein you inquire whether or not experience, as one would receive in the daily routine of a doctor's office as office girl, would be sufficient to comply with Section 10 of Chapter 50, Laws of 1913, relative to the registration of nurses. Section 10 provides:

"Any person of the required age, who has pursued as a business the vocation of nursing for a period of not less than five years prior to the passage of this act * * * may register after taking and passing an examination given by the State Board at any time within two years following the passage of this act."

Nursing is defined as "aid rendered in sickness."

29 Cyc. 1295.

Also in the case of Van Hook vs. Young's Estate, 64 N. E., 670 at page 671 the following language is used:

"The verb, 'to nurse' used with reference to an adult conveys the idea that the object of care is sick or is an invalid; it means more than general watchfulness."

Nursing means aid rendered in sickness.

Peter Burrough vs. Lancaster, 14 N. H. 382 at page 391.

While the nature of the service rendered by a girl in a doctor's office is not a legal question but is rather a question of fact, which this department cannot determine, the law is plain that unless the service performed is in the nature of aid rendered to the sick that it can-

not be termed to be the following of the vocation of nursing as a business, as provided for in this section, and such service would not entitle the applicant to the benefit of this act.

Yours very truly,

D. M. KELLY,
Attorney General.