

There were also other lecturers on chemistry, natural history, etc.

At this time the number of pupils was strictly limited by the schools to twelve, and continued to be until 1898. Before the appointment of a sous-directrice, all the female students lived in the schools, and only came over to the hospital for about two hours every morning to *look on* while the dressings were done. Henceforth they lived in the hospital, were fed and clothed there, and in return gave their services for a certain number of hours a day for nursing in the general wards. By this means the first and second year students were thoroughly trained in medical, surgical and ophthalmic nursing. The third year was spent in the midwifery and gynecological wards. I am not finding fault with your correspondent's statement that "they (the Hakeemas) will do an enormous amount of good, there is no question"—I only wish to point out the fact that these Hakeemas *have been doing* this good for some years. Nearly all the Hakeemas (certificated) in Government employ now were trained under the late Sous-directrice.

The following extracts from Lord Cromer's Report for 1899 accounts for the "remodelling":—

"For some years past the question of medical education in Egypt has been in a very unsatisfactory condition. Very few young Egyptians entered the School of Medicine. The reason for this dearth of students was not that the profession of medicine was unpopular, but that no confidence was felt in the instruction afforded at the school. The whole organization of this institution was in fact very defective. The majority of the professors were Egyptians who possessed no special qualifications to teach the subjects on which they lectured; the course of instruction extended over six years, and was far too theoretical; the work done by the students in the adjoining hospital could only be partially controlled by the school authorities. Under such conditions the necessity of reform was obvious. Opinions, however, differed greatly, as to the nature and extent of the measures required. It was decided, therefore, to take the opinion of an expert, Dr. Cooper Perry, the Superintendent of Guy's Hospital and late Dean of that School. Effect has now been given to Dr. Cooper Perry's proposals. Out of fourteen professors of different branches of medical science, thirteen are Europeans."

Dr. Perry's scheme suppressed the post of Principal Medical Officer and brought the schools and hospital under one director, who should have no public or private practice, and a Council. At the same time, the office of Sous-directrice de l'école Médicale des Filles was suppressed, and this post and that of Matron of the hospital were merged into one.

This was the "remodelling" of 1898.

One of Dr. Cooper Perry's proposals was:—"The sister in charge of the lying-in ward shall possess, in addition to the certificate of general training above mentioned, the certificate of the Obstetrical Society of London, or such other evidence of training in midwifery as the Director-General may consider equivalent." As this is a subject of particular importance in a Mahomedan country, one cannot but regret that so far this proposal has not taken effect and that out of a staff consisting "of a Matron and seven nursing sisters," not one appears to possess a midwifery certificate at present.

The Foundling Department mentioned by Mrs.

Crawford in her letter, was arranged and started by the first English Sister at Kasr-el-Aini, as far back as 1889.

The few English men and women who, under the able leadership of one man, helped to make Kasr-el-Aini what it is, have nearly all passed out of it; but when the late Principal Medical Officer resigned his post, we have it on the best authority, that he handed over to his successors a hospital, "in no degree inferior to similar institutions in the most advanced countries in Europe."

"HABEEBA."

[Readers of this journal are well aware of the splendid work done for Kasr-el-Aini Hospital by Dr. Milton, the late principal medical officer and his able helper Miss Beatrice Cutler.—Ed.]

#### ABLUTIONS IN HOSPITALS.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—I much regret that writing the truth about the washing of hospital patients, has caused such a shock to Matrons and nurses. However unpalatable my remarks may be, I hope they will arouse Matrons and sisters to look into this important item of nursing. The truth is that so much ward work and nursing have to be crushed into the few morning hours between 7 and 10, and between these most important hours there is little supervision. Night Sister is employed with work in the home, Matron is not on duty, and many Sisters under whom I have worked do not come out of their rooms till 9 a.m., so that nurses and pros. work their own sweet will and however anxious they are to do right, they have not time to do justice to the patients, at least we have not in this hospital. If the Sisters came on duty punctually at eight, and helped as they should do with the morning's work, the nurses would have more time to give to the sick. As it is the Night Nurses begin work and rouse the patients up far too early. Some of us would be grateful if a table of hours and work could appear in the RECORD, many of us deplore the rush of work in the morning, and it is not that we willingly neglect our patients, but simply that we can't cram more attention into the time.

Yours faithfully,

"STAFF NURSE."

P.S.—Will some experienced Matron or Sister, send us such a table of Duties for Nurses (night and day) for the hours from 6 to 10 a.m.?—Ed.]

#### NURSING IN INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I do not think that the statement made in the NURSING RECORD that the Assistant Nurses in Fever Hospitals, and the wardmaids, interchange duties is one which holds good in the majority of hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. I believe the work done in these institutions is second to none, and I think that if such a practice exists anywhere then the hospitals should be named, but that this most objectionable practice should not be credited to the whole of the Board's hospitals. I have heard but one opinion expressed, namely, that if such a practice as allowing ward-maids to perform nursing duties exists in any hospital it should at once be discontinued.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

JUSTICE ALL ROUND.

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