

The American Medical Association has appointed Dr. Doland its delegate to the World's Congress on Tuberculosis which is to be held in London next month.

A Treasury Department order of the United States directs the immigration officials to treat tuberculosis as a contagious disease. No immigrants showing any symptoms of tubercular disease are to be passed, and must be compulsorily deported. All the Transatlantic steamship companies have been officially advised to make medical inspections of the immigrants' lung conditions before bringing them over.

Chesterfield has long stood in need of a hospital in which cases requiring medical treatment could be received. Patients of the poorer classes needing such aid have in the past been compelled to go to Sheffield or Derby. The Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital has only dealt with surgical cases, and the Board of Management have not felt justified, notwithstanding agitations for that course to be adopted, in devoting a portion of the space to a medical ward. The possibility of a serious accident at any of the numerous collieries in the district which the hospital serves no doubt weighed with them in forming their decision on the question.

Private munificence on the part of a generous supporter of the present hospital—Ald. Eastwood, J.P., one of the borough's oldest inhabitants—has provided a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Eastwood has bought from the School Board, for the sum of £2,500, the old school in Durrant Road, together with the School Board offices, and has presented the buildings to the town and district for the purposes of a medical hospital. For such a purpose they are admirably adapted; one important point in their favour being their close proximity to the present hospital; in fact, the grounds adjoin, so that, as it is intended to have the medical ward under the care of the board of management of the hospital, the ward will be easy of administration. Mr. Eastwood has also very generously promised £1,000 towards the cost of the necessary structural alterations.

Miss Scott, member of the Matrons' Council, is the matron of the Chesterfield Hospital, and is deeply interested in the establishment of medical wards, as the Chesterfield Hospital can then rank as a training school for nurses.

In terms of the resolution passed at the public meeting of the subscribers to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital, held in Glasgow on March 27th last, the Red Cross Executive have distributed out of the surplus the sum of £8,000 among existing Scottish funds for the relief of sufferers by the South African war in the following proportions:—£2,700 to the Lord Provost of Glasgow's fund, £2,650 to branches of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association in the western counties, and a similar sum to the branches in Edinburgh and the remaining counties. The executive have further distributed £1,000 among funds for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers invalided home from the war and temporarily incapacitated from duty, of which sum £400 has been sent to General Chapman's fund.

## Professional Review.

### CONSIDERATIONS SUR LES INFIRMIÈRES DES HÔPITEAUX.\*

BY ANNA EMILIE HAMILTON, M.D.

(Continued from page 440.)

Owing to the fact that promotions are made by a distant administration, it is impossible that the capacity of individuals should be gauged and appreciated, there is no one to report on the nursing qualifications of the personnel, to say if they are trustworthy, careful and reliable, if they are skillful in the performance of the many duties connected with their work, if they are acquainted with the preparation of the operating theatre, and a thousand and one other things which are reported upon, and which influence promotion in a well-organised nursing school. Neither must these nurses demonstrate the virtues of obedience, patience, and good character before they obtain their diplomas, or are promoted to the charge of wards. Indeed, Dr. Bourneville—who once gave as a subject for composition to his pupils the question "what are the moral qualities which a nurse should possess?"—relates that none of the answers which he received were satisfactory, and that amongst them was one which stated "To be a good nurse it is first of all necessary to have a clear police record!"

We have left ourselves no space to deal with the more general part of this book, which is full of interest, but give Dr. Hamilton's conclusions, which are (1) that the progress of medicine and surgery have occasioned a need for nursing reform; (2) that women are specially suited for nursing; (3) that intelligence, special knowledge and devotion to duty are required; (4) that experience has shown that technical instruction only produces good results when given after a general education; (5) that tact, delicacy of feeling, dignity and education are required in nurses; (6) that they should be recruited from the same class as doctors.

The conclusion forced upon us from studying this most interesting Thesis is that nursing in French Hospitals is far behind that in many other European countries, notably Great Britain, Germany, Holland, and Sweden. There is also reason to fear that it will be some time before the standard of nursing in France attains to the level of these more progressive countries, inasmuch as the question closely involves that of religion and religious orders. It is only necessary to visit the two countries of Holland and Belgium to see that the nursing of hospitals in the hands of religious orders, as is the case in Belgium, is immeasurably inferior to the standard in Holland, where lay nurses are employed. The position in France is much the same as that in Belgium, and it is probable that in both these countries we shall have the sad spectacle of the good done by scientific medicine minimised, or spoilt, in hospital treatment, until the scientific aspect of nursing is recognized. We look forward with much pleasure to hearing the Report which Dr. Hamilton is preparing on the present condition of nursing in France, for presentation to the International Council of Nurses at Buffalo in September.

Montpellier. Imprimerie Centrale du Midi. (Hamelin Frères.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)