

The Association for the Development of Assistance for the Sick in France.

(Founded in 1900, Paris.)

The fifth general meeting of the Association was held on March 20th, 1904, at 10, Rue Amyot, and was presided over by M. Mesurier, Director-General of the "Assistance publique." The proceedings of the meeting throw much light on this very interesting piece of endeavour, and show the liberal spirit in which it has been conceived.

Mme. Alphen-Salvador, the President and foundress, in her opening address said, after greeting those present:—

"Last year M., the Minister of Public Instruction did us the honour of presiding over our general meeting. To-day the presence of M. the Director of the 'Assistance publique' proves the interest which he takes in our school. Furthermore, M. the Minister of the Navy has for the second time given us the use of his residence for our annual bazaar, thus also contributing to our success. We are happy in possessing such proof of the goodwill of the Government. The sympathy thus shown us is doubly acceptable, and constitutes a powerful encouragement to carry on a work which is, by its essential character, different from other similar enterprises in this, that our guiding principle has been to remain always, and completely, outside of and above the conflicts of opinion which, in our epoch, paralyse the most generous efforts.

"M. the Director of the 'Assistance publique' will appreciate, better than any other, the carefully-chosen staff which we are training, and which may, one day, prove a useful nucleus from which to select women to supervise the nursing (*surveillantes*) of provincial hospitals. At present, demands for our nurses come daily from families.

"We thank M. the Director of the 'Assistance publique' for the kindness with which he gives our pupils the privileges of the city hospitals, and Mesdames the Supervisors (*surveillantes*) for the courtesy with which they facilitate the work of our pupils. On his side, M. the Director of the 'Assistance publique' can testify to what extent the most eminent members of the medical corps have at heart the success of our school.

"A lady of great wisdom and moral force, Mdlle. Scherer, a member of the Council from the beginning, has consented to direct the school, and does so with great devotion and disinterestedness. Our pupils are happy and trustful under her guidance, at once motherly and firm, and feel for her an almost filial deference and affection.

"The free hospital which serves as a school of practical work for our young pupils continues to be directed with great care by Dr. Baudouin, and the

free consultation which he gives twice a week attracts a numerous clientèle. Furthermore, Dr. Dubrisay, whose valuable aid has lately been proffered us, has established a free service for nurslings, with records weekly of their weight and condition. This service must contribute to diminish, in the quarter, the frightful infantile mortality at which society is so justly alarmed. The question is, by protecting infancy to strengthen children who otherwise, by atavism or lack of intelligent care, might succumb to the maladies which now destroy 14.5 per cent. of babies in their first year in Paris—or, later, to tuberculosis.

"Our 'Maison de Santé,' Rue Oudinot, is in full activity, thanks to the zeal and interest of Dr. Hartmann. We are unable to accommodate all who ask for admission. The patients and their families declare their satisfaction with the care they receive and the management of the house, directed so ably by Mme. Regnault. Dr. Hartmann takes great pains in the details of technical and practical instruction of our pupils and in teaching them all the innumerable requirements of surgery. The two supervisors (*surveillantes*) attached to the House are the instructresses of the pupils, who here receive their surgical training. . . . We cannot express too much gratitude to our teaching corps, and to those eminent lecturers who give our pupils weekly an agreeable diversion from their technical studies.

"These Thursday talks are awaited with impatience, and all of our pupils desire a share in these hours which open their minds to the multiple aspects of the development of the individual conscience with the plenitude of its independence and its voluntary submission to duty voluntarily undertaken.

"A little volume now contains some of these talks, and, I am told, they are read in many intimate circles in the country. Thanks to our lecturers, the teaching of the school, so truly secular and moral, may penetrate into many unknown interiors, many different groups.

"And you, our pupils, when you have grown 'toward the evening,' not under the candle like the 'grandmères de Ronsard,' but in the clarity of the new light, you may recall with pride, in re-reading this first little volume, that in you, at the dawn of this school, was saluted the 'verbe nouveau de la femme,' as Mme. Mary Duclaux happily expressed it."

L. L. DOOR.

(To be continued.)

Honours for American Nurses.

It is announced from Tokio that the Emperor of Japan has conferred the Order of the Crown on the American nurses serving in the Japanese hospitals. We offer our congratulations to Dr. Anita McGee and her enterprising staff on this honour.

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