

Our Foreign Letter.

THE TONDU HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL.

This school, which was opened in January, 1904, at the Hospital of St. André, then transferred to the Tondou Hospital in October, 1904, has very much improved, thanks to this change.



The directrice, Miss Elston, has now almost the same power as an

English Matron, for she rules over the nurses, the linen, the food department, the servants, &c.

This hospital is well out of town amongst beautiful meadows and trees. The building is quite new, patients only having been admitted here a few months before it became the nursing school. The wards are bright and airy, the beds and furniture painted pale blue, just as if they had been meant to match the uniform of the lay nurses, who very unexpectedly were brought to work here. The operating theatre is beautiful, and the sterilising department very complete.

The nurses' bedrooms are small but neatly furnished, and the immense windows opening on the beautiful country are a great comfort after the close rooms of the old St. André Hospital.

Five visiting and three home doctors attend the patients, of whom there are 120.

All the nursing staff wear the same uniform, but the "Cheftaines" (Sisters) wear Sister Dora caps with strings, the "garde-malades diplômées" (staff nurses) wear the same cap without strings, and the "élèves" (probationers) a small three-cornered cap.

Now that the nuns of St. Vincent de Paul and of Nevers are no longer in the way, all the painful struggle is over, and the school turns out a great success.

Numerous are the applications, but the difficulty at present is to have enough sisters and staff nurses to train the probationers, as there are so few French nurses able to do this as yet. Therefore, applications from foreign nurses are being considered. This is a good plan, for after spending a few months in this hospital, mastering well the language and French customs, a foreign nurse may then get a good post in one of the hospitals that are reorganising their nursing staff. Already, two nurses from the Protestant Hospital, who took up work at the Tondou School, have been elected *directrices* of two civil hospitals, and this creates a great opening for certificated nurses.

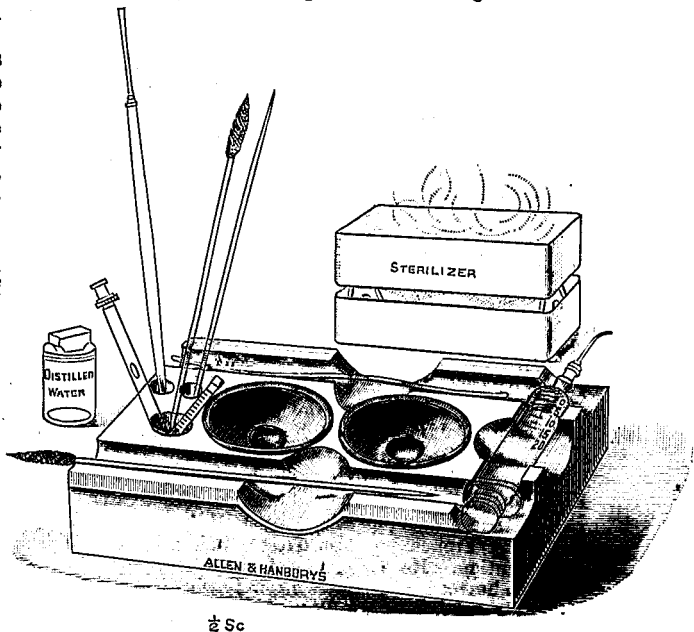
Casimir Périer, the former President of the Republic, who spent a few hours in Bordeaux lately for the *Congrès d'Hygiène Sociale*, came to see the school; he was accompanied by the Préfet of Gironde, who looks most favourably on this school, Dr. Lande, thanks to whose energy it was created and upheld, and many members of the Congress. Miss Elston was complimented, and it was mentioned in one of the speeches that this school had been founded on the principles adopted by Dr. Anna Hamilton at the Protestant Hospital.

New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

A NEW DRESSING SLAB.

Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, of 48, Wigmore Street, London, W., are supplying at the cost of 2s. a very useful little dressing slab, which is described by Dr. R. E. Hanson as follows:—

In the illustration there is shown a glazed earthenware slab measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length by 3 in. in width by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in thickness. It serves as a support for lacrymal or hypodermic syringes, glass rods tipped with wool, probes, and similar instruments. On it there are formed (1) two long shallow grooves and one shorter groove for receiving instruments, each groove being provided with a central bevel; (2) two crater-like depressions capable of holding one fluid



2 5c

drachm, each having at its lowest point a recess of a capacity of five minims whereby a syringe is enabled to draw up the last drop of the contained solution; and (3) one large and two small wells in which various articles can be placed upright, a syringe or a glass cylinder in the larger well, and a glass rod or the nozzle of a syringe in the smaller ones. The lid of the box in which the slab is kept is washable, and can be used as a cover for the slab when the latter is standing on the table, and the sterilised instruments are *in situ* ready for the surgeon. The slab is easily rendered aseptic by boiling, it cannot be overturned, and is useful where small quantities of expensive drugs are employed.

In hospital wards, such a slab would be a great convenience for keeping in a most accessible form the small articles above described.

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