

and a grant of £10 was made to one member who applied for assistance.

The annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24th, in the Albert Hall, Royal College of Surgeons, Stephen's Green, by kind permission of the College.

The Baroness James Rothschild is establishing in Paris a school for the training of nurses, in connection with an Institute in memory of her sister, the late Princess of Wagram. The nursing students will frequent the Broca, Boucicaut, Laënnec, and Pasteur Hospitals, the Children's Hospital, and Dr. Garnier's private *clinique*. When they have finished their course they may return to the Institute every three or four years for a month, in order to learn any new methods. The Baroness is receiving assistance in the organisation of this scheme from Madame Taine, Madame Soulange-Bodin, Mdlle. Chaptal, and other well-known French women.

Five times decorated on the battlefield for conspicuous bravery under fire, Frau Augusta Graeber, who as an army nurse went through the war between Prussia and Denmark in 1864, the war with Austria in 1866, and the Franco-German War, has died, at the age of eighty-three, at Hirschberg, Silesia.

The difficulty of adequate nursing at the hospitals seems to crop up periodically in Calcutta, says the *Lancet*, just as it does in Bombay. In the annual report of the Calcutta Institution, just published, not only is the staff of nurses at the various hospitals in the city complained of as insufficient, but the subscriptions received from the public, and especially from the native population, are said to be very deficient. About 120 nurses are supported by the institution, distributed among the five hospitals. The Government promised to increase its subsidy to Rs.50,000 if the collections became equal to this amount. Unfortunately they have not. Hospital Sunday in Calcutta only realised about Rs.5,000 (less than £310). The Indian community seem very slow to acknowledge and to recognise the benefits conferred on their fellow countrymen, judging from the very moderate financial support which they contribute. The nursing at the three larger hospitals is superintended by the Clewer Sisters, whose services are gratefully acknowledged by the committee. More nurses are wanted at the Medical College Hospital to carry out the work efficiently, but the committee needs further support, especially from the Indian community, before it can see its way to increase the staff. The accommodation for the nursing staff is also quite inadequate. The total expenditure of the institution was Rs.112,560, and there was a loss on working of Rs.2,627. There is a provident fund to which the nurses contribute, and also a pension fund, both very useful institutions. The whole question of the nursing at the Calcutta hospitals requires reconsideration.

## The Hospital World.

HÔPITAL GÉNÉRAL, RHEIMS.\*

By Miss E. N. LA MOTTE,

Graduate Johns Hopkins Training-School.

Rheims is an old French town with a population of a little over 100,000, and situated rather off the usual tourist track—in fact, one must go to Rheims deliberately; it is not to be reached by getting off the train *en route* for somewhere else; but it has not been equally fortunate in getting off the route of marching armies, which from Roman days down almost to our own have always included it in their line of progress and have left upon it their impress. Here, in 496, Clovis was baptised and embraced Christianity. And here, also, after the twelfth century, nearly all the French kings were crowned—in fact, it seems as if every street and house, and even the very cobblestones of the quaint old city, are rich in memories and associations with an historic and important past. It is not, therefore, a surprise to find that the large old *Hôpital Général* has its associations likewise, and that it was during the French Revolution, and probably because of it, that it was converted from its original design, that of a Jesuit monastery, and turned over to its present use. The monastery was built about the year 1500—not old, according to European reckoning, but its whole appearance, inside and out, suggests very great age. It is of brick and stone, and presents a plain façade to the street and square of St. Maurice, but within it is built in squares, enclosing numbers of paved inner courts which are connected with one another by large stone archways. These courts are pleasant places for the patients to sit—they are shaded by large trees, and the grass grows between the paving-stones, giving a very restful and out-of-the-world appearance. On entering the buildings themselves one is struck by their singularly dark and ill-ventilated condition. The high ceilings and small windows about 6 ft. from the floor, which, even when open, admit only a scanty amount of light, and still less fresh air, together with the rough stone floors and dark walls, combine to produce a most dreary effect. In every department it is the same. In some places the windows are not so high overhead, in some the floors are cement, but the effect of a half-light and heavy, ill-ventilated atmosphere is everywhere.

Strictly speaking, the *Hôpital Général* is not a hospital at all, but a home for the aged and orphans, of whom there are about 700, separated into departments according to age, circumstance, and condition, but each department has its own ward attached for the care of its sick. Each of these wards or infirmaries holds thirty beds, and there is one such ward for every 120 inmates, and nearly

\* From the *American Journal of Nursing*.

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