

seen in a lovely old house, and the church of St. Genevieve which had several times been church and pantheon. And the most wonderful Statue of Thought showing the awakening of the mind and soul of a savage.

Miss Mollett concluded by saying that she had lived two years in Paris, but during that time had never seen a hospital, she would therefore leave the hospitals to Miss Wortabet.

Miss Edla Wortabet said that her acquaintance with hospitals had been cosmopolitan in character; she had lived in the East and met French doctors there, as her father, a doctor, was one of the founders of a school of medicine in Syria. She had been matron of a hospital at Beyrout, and she was acquainted with the methods both of Kaiserswerth deaconesses and the sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. When she learnt through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, that nursing reform was going on in France she was keen to assist, and was full of enthusiasm when Dr. Hamilton asked her to help to organise the training school connected with the Protestant Hospital, Bordeaux, on modern lines.

In studying the nursing question in France, it was necessary to consider it from the political, social and religious points of view.

From the religious standpoint you were, in France, religious and royalist, or anti-clerical and republican. Dr. Lande had tried to introduce lay nursing in the St. André hospital at Bordeaux, containing 1,000 beds, but the sisters who were in possession of the nursing were clever and cultured, and had the support of Bishops and Cardinals and the clerical party. Ultimately it was found best to take a small hospital and to start a small training school so that, in Bordeaux there was not only the Protestant Hospital, but the Tondu Hospital, of which Miss Elston was directrice, which had a training school for lay nurses.

The religious question entered so largely into the care of the sick in France that even at the Protestant Hospital no Roman Catholic patient was allowed to sleep in the building. Was it good for nurses that the religious question should thus be placed first?

Then as to the social question. Lay nurses were mainly drawn from the republican class, and therefore girls of good social position would not go into hospitals, fearing it might injure their status. Matrimony was the goal of French girls, and from their childhood they learnt to economise so that a sufficient sum

might be put by for their *dots*. It was terrible in France to become a *vielle fille* (old maid).

There was something childish about the French character, said Miss Wortabet, which made it difficult to teach discipline, firmness broke the hearts of French girls.

Miss Wortabet graphically described the nursing situation in Paris, where from 15,000 to 20,000 nurses work in the municipal hospitals, lectures being given at Bicêtre, the Pitié, Lariboisière, and the Salpêtrière. The last mentioned hospital contained 4,000 beds and 44 blocks of buildings. Within its walls, as the result of the efforts of those working for nursing reform, the College of Nurses had been established. She spoke of the work of Dr. Bourneville and M. Montreuil in connection with the introduction of lay nurses, of the efforts of Mme. Alphen Salvador, and others to secure refined and cultured nurses, and of Mme. Salvador's school in the Rue Amyot, as well as the Ecole d'Infirmières Privées in the Rue Vercingetorix, established by the generosity of the Rothschild family. She also spoke of the difficulties which she foresaw in the way of nursing organisation in France.

It is quite impossible to give an idea in print of the vivacity and knowledge which characterised the vivid word picture presented by Miss Wortabet.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she was an optimistic person and did not doubt that sooner or later French nurses would work out their own salvation, and expressed the belief that before many years had passed a fine profession of nursing would arise in France.

In this country, after fifty years, organisation was still chaotic. No two schools were agreed in regard to detail, and we had no College of Nursing and no educational standards. The national assets were common sense, and sound physical health, but we lacked imagination. She hoped all present would be in Paris next year, not only to teach but to learn. We must take the best, and bring back the best, including a little of the French *esprit*.

Mrs. Fenwick also referred to the pioneer work of Miss Elston, an English nurse, at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux, and spoke of the amount of knowledge which had been placed at the disposal of the meeting by Miss Mollett and Miss Wortabet, and of the pleasure which their eloquent addresses had given.

The meeting concluded with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Miss Mollett.

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