

At the present moment we are improving the diets and sleeping accommodation by the suppression of dormitories and by indemnifying those who are lodging outside the Hospital. The moral dignity of the staff is safeguarded and encouraged by the presence of its delegates on a council of discipline, and by the gift of honourable rewards by the Republican Government for devotion to the sick, medals for work in epidemics, and the medal of honour of the Assistance Publique. To-day all our efforts are directed to a better recruiting of the female nursing staff; we have instituted a preliminary course at the Salpêtrière, and we are at last going to open our school for nurses; in fact we have understood that technical training and professional education, must be given to young girls and young women before expecting them to become practical nurses.

We must, during the first two years of residence, which we shall impose on them, test their vocation, subject them to severe discipline, and teach them the indefatigable devotion which the care of the sick requires.

It is on the threshold of this school, which you will visit on Thursday, that I give this historical summary. I have the firm conviction that our school carries within it the germ of the great revolution from which must develop the beautiful profession of the French *Infirmière*.

#### THE LAICISATION OF NURSING IN FRANCE.

By DR. BOURNEVILLE.

In giving the reasons which lead to the steps he took for the secularisation of hospitals in Paris, Dr. Bourneville gave two striking illustrations.

In 1862, when he was attached to the "Hôpital des Enfants Malades," a newly born infant, suffering from an imperforate anus was being operated on. The Sister, a woman of 40, in passing the instruments, covered her face with one hand and passed them with the other, so as not to see the genital organs. This singular attitude made him ponder and wonder whether the nun had really understood the duties of a nurse. Was this attitude an exception or was it a rule? In 1869, one morning in doing a round of visits with a visiting physician, a man suffering from acute heart disease asked Dr. Hardy whether he was dangerously ill. "Why?" asked the doctor. "Because the Sister sent for the priest without my knowledge, and he gave me extreme unction," said the man.

At this period, Dr. Bourneville saw in the *Lancet* an article on English nurses and their training. In 1871 he wrote a letter to Charles Delescluze on the organisation of a training school for nurses, who would replace the Sisters.

In 1877 he went to London, as a delegate of

the Municipal Council, in order to study the Metropolis. He took advantage of this visit to study the hospitals. At Westminster Hospital, the Matron, Miss Merryweather, gave him every help in showing him records. On his return in 1877 the Municipal Council gave their consent for the creation of Training Schools for lay Nurses in Paris.

#### THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NURSING AND THE SCHOOL OF THE RUE AMYOT. By MME. G. ALPHEN SALVADOR, *President-Founder.*

Mme. Salvador emphasised the point that formerly the nursing of the sick was regarded as a pious action, and people who took up nursing were nearly always supported by the hope of a future reward, but that nowadays we regard the disease of a member of a community as affecting the whole community, the big social family is ailing in the person of the sick man, and it is the community which owes him assistance as to a dear friend, and that in the interest of all.

She went on to say that to the idea of charity has been added the idea of joint responsibility, which raises both the helper and the helped, and as was pointed out by M. Roux, the Director of the Pasteur Institute at the sixth general meeting of the "Association for the Development of Sick Nursing," it was on account of the clear idea which they had of this evolution that the founders of the Association had inaugurated a work full of promise.

Mme. Salvador then gave a history of the School, which was founded in February, 1901, of the course which the pupils pass through, and of the surgical nursing home in the Rue Oudinot, the work of which extended so quickly that the necessary enlargements would have exceeded the resources of the Association, and the financial bonds have there been severed, but the moral bonds remain the same with the new surgical home to be opened in Neuilly in October, which will contain thirty beds, and where the work will be entirely performed by the pupils of the Association.

Mme. Salvador laid stress upon the fact that the pupils of the school are taught not only to soothe physical distress, but to acquire a strength of mind equal to their task of devotion and self-denial. To this end lectures on practical morals are given to them every week by eminent lecturers.

Work done on such lines, said M. Lourbies, Hon. Vice-President of the Senate, cannot, if developed to its full extent, fail to have a philanthropic, humanitarian, and moral import wholly to the credit of contemporary democracy.

#### THE HOME SCHOOL FOR PRIVATE NURSES.

By MME. L. CHAPTAL.

Miss Chaptal said that it was not without a sense of emotion that she addressed the Conference, for the occasion was the first in France in

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