

see if there might not be found the comfort that was lacking to them!

Did you know that during her year of investigation into nursing conditions, she spent six weeks in studying the English hospitals, and that Miss Stewart, always bounteous in hospitality, gave her the freedom of the wards, a probationer's dress, and a broom, so that she might not look and feel like an outsider, and that she went through the hospital watching the way the nurses did their work? Other Matrons were equally ready to help her in her quest. It seems a little sad that only at St. Thomas's was she refused, when what she was seeking was to transplant Miss Nightingale's system into her native country.

Then the enormous (if local) excitement that was aroused by the rumour of this forthcoming Thesis! The partisanship, for and against, of her friends and enemies! The consternation of the chief judge, who first looked over it, and declared it was impossible—it would all have to be re-written—but who finally simmered down to changing the title ("The Work of Women in Hospitals" was too dangerously emancipated!) and using the blue pencil! Finally, the conversion of all the medical judges except one, and the mystery of the hour and three-quarters during which this one, desperately, held the others closeted in the hope of gaining an unfavourable verdict of the merits of this strange and unexampled Thesis.

Since Dr. Hamilton defied all precedent by writing a Thesis on nursing three other medical graduates, all men, have imitated her example.

The splendid organisation of the Hôpital du Tondu could hardly have been possible without the support of Dr. Lande, this strong, determined and able man. Once having seen the Maison de Santé (to which he was introduced by Mme. Kriegk, a friend to the nursing cause of great clear-sightedness and liberal thought) and Dr. Hamilton, he was not to be changed from his purpose of bringing the same reform to pass in the public hospitals. He was then Mayor of Bordeaux.

There is something very like the American man's way of working in Dr. Lande's grasp of that hospital reform in the Tondu. He said very little, but got it all done. As our idiom runs, "he could and was not afraid."

He is a very powerful man, and can afford to disregard enmity. He has the Chair of Medico-Legal Jurisprudence in the University of Bordeaux, is the official medico-legal jurist for all of Southern France, is a member, as you know, of the Superior Council of the Assistance Publique and the Administrator of the Civil Hospitals of Bordeaux.

There could hardly have been a happier choice for the head of the Tondu work than Miss Elston. Well may you say that the London Hospital should be proud of her. I do not know of anyone who is doing a better piece of work. It is not only the well cared for patients, nor the well kept wards and corners (though these do the nurses all the more credit because they are somewhat old-

fashioned and shabby in their construction), but there is that indefinable air that gentlewomen bring into hospitals. Everything is done seriously. There is no flippancy. The nurses command the respect of everyone, and in the attitude of the medical staff toward them there has been a silent revolution.

It is the chief glory of these two schools that so many of their graduates are being called to posts in provincial hospitals, for the regeneration of hospital nursing is by all odds the most urgent social reform in the whole reach of French medicine at present.

L. L. Dock.

## Professional Review.

### "LECTURES ON MEDICINE TO NURSES."

We commend to the notice of nurses Dr. Herbert E. Cuff's admirable book, "A Course of Lectures on Medicine to Nurses," the popularity of which may be estimated by the fact that a fifth edition has recently been issued. It is published by Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, W., the price being 3s. 6d. net. The line adopted by Dr. Cuff is indicated in his preface, in the course of which he says: "No one who has taken part in the instruction of nurses can have failed to notice their desire for more information about the patients they tend than is to be obtained from their manuals. It is unreasonable to expect a nurse to be satisfied with the mere mechanical performance of her duties. If she is interested in her patients, she naturally wishes to learn something about the diseases from which they are suffering; the explanation of their symptoms, and the object of the treatment. Her own books are either silent on these points, or give but a very slight sketch of them. She, therefore, turns to one or other of the students' text-books of medicine in search of the information she desires. The result of her reading must be to a great extent unsatisfactory, owing to the technical language in which such books are written. Yet how frequently one finds nurses seeking knowledge in this way. In my experience these are the women who most clearly recognise the line which exists between the duties of a nurse and those of the medical attendant. In these lectures I have sought in some degree to supply this want, avoiding, as far as possible, the use of technical expressions."

Dr. Cuff was for many years Medical Superintendent of the North-Eastern Fever Hospital, Tottenham, and a considerable portion of the book is devoted to the subject of infection, and infectious diseases. There are chapters on other subjects, however, such as the Forced Feeding of Sick Children, Paralysis, and the Diseases of Children, which are of great value, and we specially commend to the attention of nurses those on the Pulse—a subject about which they, as a rule, are expected to know so much, and are taught so little—and on Hysteria. They will well repay careful study.

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