

bers, as representatives of the nurses on the Council: Miss Ramsden (Rotunda Hospital), Miss Butler (Portobello), Miss Powell (Charlemont), Miss Shuter (City of Dublin), and Miss Lamont (Lady Superintendent, Q.V.J.I.).

Charlottenburg has taken the initiative in appointing to its elementary schools women officials under the title of "Schulschwester," or school-sisters, whose function it is specially to look after the health of the children. The school-sisters have no pedagogic duties. It is their business to follow up cases where children are ill-fed, uncleanly, or dressed improperly; to teach backward parents; act generally with the sanitary authorities, and accompany children to doctors when parents are unable to do so. They are also expected to give special advice to parents as to the purchase of spectacles and surgical appliances.

Nursing affairs have moved on in Cuba since the Spanish-American War. According to the *American Journal of Nursing*, "The Cuban nurses have formed an association, with Senorita Marguerite Nuñez, of Hospital No. 1 at Havana, as president. They have been invited to send members to London to the Congress. Miss Hibbard, with the assistance of some of the American nurses in Cuba, has been requested by the Government to organise a district nursing service for tuberculosis work in Havana, Cuba. Nursing affairs in general in Cuba progress steadily under the excellent organisation of education there. The Registration Act in force there since 1902 works well, the three years' course is general; there is a nurse sitting as a member on the Central Board of Hospitals, and another holding the position of General Inspector of Nurses. The duties of this position are to inspect all schools for nurses, all hospitals, private or public, and all schools in sanatoria, etc., that employ graduate nurses, for, as such nurses all hold diplomas from the State training schools, the State supervises their work, wherever they may be after graduation. We recommend this example to our friends in all States who long to return to the good old days when the word nurse was a synonym for ward-maid or scrub."

We regret to learn that Miss Couch, the Matron of the National Hospital, Bloemfontein, and other members of the staff, have been seriously ill from arsenical poisoning. It is supposed that the arsenic was accidentally mixed either in soup or pudding. Whatever the vehicle, the victims suffered terribly, and some were very dangerously ill. We are glad to hear that Miss Couch has left for a holiday, which she must need much after so disastrous a catastrophe.

## Our Foreign Letter.

IN PARIS AGAIN.

By a Guest at the Salpêtrière.

II.



I was dressing in the morning when Mlle. Grenier (the Surveillante, and Mme. Jacques' right hand) knocked at

my door. "This is the demoiselle whom Monsieur le Directeur has chosen for you, and who will attend on you during your stay," she said, as she turned to a young girl who wore the rough blue dress of a "fille de service" of the Assistance Publique. She was a tiny little person who seemed swallowed up in her clothes; her features looked so refined that my heart went out to her. She was most obliging, but very quiet and reserved, and I often wondered whether she was strong enough for the work. My brain was so full of things that I hardly had the time to get to know her during the first two days. Finally, one morning when she brought me my "café au lait" to my bed I told her to sit down and talk to me (for I cannot bear to be served by anyone, without knowing something of their lives). With great difficulty I discovered that her father was a schoolmaster, that at his death she had gone to England to find a situation, and, having failed, returned to France and made up her mind to become a nurse. Finding that she had passed the limit age of 25, and that in any case she could not enter till October at the Training School, she made up her mind that she would enter as a simple *fille de service* at the Salpêtrière, and thus get into one of the hospitals as a nurse, pass her examinations, and work her way up. In this way I discovered that there were still two ways of becoming a nurse, either as a soldier who works his way up from the ranks, or as an officer, which, of course, is the pleasanter way of the two. I could not help admiring the pluck of such a refined, well-educated girl, and on speaking to Mme. Jacques and M. Mesureur about her, was delighted to find that the obstacle of her age (27) was not insurmountable, and that she will be made quite eligible in October. She is now already at one of the hospitals as a probationer, so that when she enters in October she will have a start over the other beginners by six months. This way of entering the Training School has been adopted by others, as the entries only take place in October.

There are now hundreds and hundreds of girls waiting to compete for the openings in October, and each year both the social and educational status has risen, thus some of the second year pupils hold their *brevet supérieur*, and a larger number of highly educated girls have applied this year from every department (county) of France; I saw as many as 17 in several departments on the

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