

## NOTES ON NURSING IN FRANCE.

THE HÔPITAL ÉCOLE (RED CROSS),  
SQUARE DES PEUPLIERS, PARIS.

This School—Hôpital École de la Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires—is attached to a beautiful Red Cross Hospital, erected some twelve years ago in the Square des Peupliers, Paris, and is a surgical *clinique*.

From the inception of the war, as Hôpital 12, it has been used for the care of the wounded, and many Red Cross workers have eagerly availed themselves of a short course of practical instruction for war nursing.

The elementary instruction to qualify for the simple Diploma after one year's work is exceedingly practical, the full term of training for a "Diplôme Supérieur" is two years.

The school is superintended by a highly experienced *Directrice*, Mlle. Génin, who received me with delightful courtesy and herself conducted me over the whole institution.

Mlle. Génin is *maitresse femme*, and her wonderful power of organisation was apparent to the professional eye in every department of the hospital, notably in the order and cleanliness of the wards, the disciplined demeanour of the nursing staff, and the evident comfort of the patients. The stairs, walls, floors, all were pure white and speckless. In the beautiful little chapel dim lights were burning and nurses knelt in prayer.

We visited all the domestic offices, and found every department in order, so essential for the comfort and happiness of the inmates of a hospital.

From her little bureau on the ground-floor it was evident that the whole direction of the institution was effected by "wireless."

The extensive grounds surrounding the hospital were beautifully laid out in gardens, or thriftily cultivated for use.

Situated in a very poor district this fine open

space with the heights of Bicetre in the near distance permits a sufficiency of light and air. The sunset as seen from the windows was amazingly beautiful.

With Mlle. Génin I exchanged opinions on the difference of nurse-training in England and France, taking into consideration national temperament and idiosyncrasy.

I gathered that women's paid work was not yet held in the same honourable esteem in France as in England and America. Thus nursing as a paid

profession for gentlewomen was yet in its infancy in France.

Mlle. Génin is herself a voluntary worker but is in favour of encouraging respect for women's paid services, especially those of such inestimable value to the community as the work of the trained nurse.

She would also eagerly embrace an opportunity of adding medical and obstetric training for the nurses to the surgical branch already provided at the Peupliers, thus providing a thorough training for the "Diplôme Supérieur" under central control. To effect this extension new blocks and a Nurses' Home must be built, and for this at the present time money is not forthcoming in France.

I was introduced by Mlle. Génin to the Marquise de Montebello, a leading Red Cross worker, who has taken the trouble to study the

nursing question in France and England, and who is deeply and intelligently interested in the progress and evolution of nursing in France.

With her I visited the fine wards arranged for the care of the wounded in the magnificent École Diocésaine at Conflans, by the grace of the Archbishop of Paris, where a nursing staff trained by Mlle. Génin have established a well-ordered service.

The same standard of order and cleanliness prevailed as at the Peupliers, and many of the new scientific treatments brought into practice during the war were being used for the relief and cure of the patients.



Mlle. GÉNIN, Directrice.

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