



THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, MONTREAL

Our Foreign Letter.

THE Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal—the illustration of which we are enabled to give our readers through the courtesy of the editor of the *British Medical Journal*—is about to suffer a serious loss in the resignation of Miss Draper, who organized the Training School, giving up an important position in the States to accept the appointment to the Royal Victoria; and who is a woman of fine mind and attainments, but whose strength is by no means equal to the arduous strain of Hospital work. Her laying down the reins is much to be regretted, though her service in Hospital work has been long and hard enough to entitle her to a thorough rest.

It is a little unusual to see a Hospital of the standing of the Royal Victoria advertise in the public journals for a Superintendent of Nurses, and to those who can read between the lines there is an unpleasant significance in the simple fact that applications are to be made to the Superintendent of the Hospital. It looks very much as if that is to happen which, it may be confidently stated, would not have happened in Miss Draper's time, viz., the direct subordination of the Superintendent of Nurses to the Superintendent of the Hospital, who, in this case, is a layman. This, if it takes place, means that he be-

comes practically the head of the Training School, leaving the Superintendent of Nurses such only in name—charged to be sure, as before, with all the work, detail, and care involved in the management of a large school, while deprived of the power of independent judgment and action, and denied the prestige of authority which should rightly belong to the one who does the work and carries the burden.

That this system is wrong has long since been laid down by no less an authority than Miss Nightingale herself, who, in the clearest terms, has stated the necessity for vesting the whole control and discipline of Nurses in training in the woman who is at their head, it being of course understood that this head is, in the fullest measure, responsible to the head of the Hospital for the work in her department. This teaching of Miss Nightingale's, proved again and again, and borne out by facts on every side, has been the foundation of the principles on which Bellevue Training School was established, and has been consistently followed by her graduates to this day, and by their pupils, as also by the graduates of old Blockley (reformed by Miss Fisher and Miss Horner), the New Haven School, the Massachusetts General, and some others.

Among those schools, fortunately not numerous, which have fallen under the domination of the opposite idea, there may be found some melancholy exam-

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