

the religious opinions of the patients are respected, and pains are taken in every case to ensure the ministrations of a clergyman or minister of their own persuasion.

The poor of Paris have, says the Paris correspondent of a contemporary, met with a severe loss in the death of M. Mourier, Director of the Board of Public Charity. He died suddenly at the early age of forty-four from an unsuspected aneurism. When Dr. Napias, head of the Board of Public Charity, died last year M. Waldeck-Rousseau asked M. Mourier to accept the situation and devote himself to the work involved. The then Prime Minister had long thought that the general system of poor relief needed to be overhauled, and hospital relief placed on an entirely new footing. The nursing staff required to be remodelled. M. Mourier accepted the post with the secret intention of not drawing any salary, and of thoroughly devoting himself to the task. M. Waldeck-Rousseau had pointed out.

The staff being in working order, M. Mourier made a visit to the hospitals. It was no formal visit. When he had gone round them officially he asked for their complete transformation. The old hospitals were nurseries of disease, and ought to be pulled down, and new hospitals built more in unison with hygienic rules. He also urged the creation of isolated staffs of attendants for the wards reserved for the treatment of infectious diseases, pending the creation of hospitals for such maladies. The nursing staff engaged his close attention. He found it underpaid and inefficient. It ought to be well trained, well tested, and well paid. The laywoman employed as a hospital nurse ought to be cheered by the prospect of a retiring pension. M. Mourier set his face against requiring servile work of laywomen acting as nurses. They ought to be regarded as coadjutors of the medical staff. He intended next year to visit the most modern Viennese, German, and English hospitals, and to study the conditions under which the nursing staff is recruited in them.

To the discipline of his department M. Mourier carefully attended. He determined from the outset to establish discipline in the administration, in the hospitals, in the medical staff under him, and to suffer no slackness anywhere. The estimates sent up to the Ministry of the Interior and the Hotel de Ville for the changes that he planned came to 75,000,000 francs. M. Mourier made bold to guarantee that not a centime would be wasted or jobbed away. If the Government and city refused to adopt his proposed changes, he would think it his duty to resign.

The strong hand of M. Mourier will be greatly missed in carrying through necessary reforms.

## The Hospital World.

### A PRIVATE NURSING HOME.

Of private nursing homes there is no end, but amongst them all there are comparatively few in which one would like to be nursed when ill. In the pleasant rooms at 21, Beaumont Street, however, daintily clean, and harmoniously furnished, one might well spend, as pleasantly as possible under the circumstances, some weeks of enforced rest. The home has the first essential of good management, a trained nurse as its head; the proprietor, Miss Stower, being a certificated nurse of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, while the nurses who work under her are also fully-trained. Through all the working of the home runs method, order, neatness, and nicety—essential factors in the good management of any house, and more especially of one devoted to the care of the sick. The well-stocked linen cupboard contains hem-stitched sheets, dainty be-frilled pillow cases, damask towels, wee cloths for trays of various sizes, and cloths and rubbers of all kinds for use in the wards; while a chest near at hand holds a stock of blankets. Upstairs in the bath-room are two cupboards, one containing medicines and non-poisonous drugs in ordinary use; the other, always locked, is kept for poisons. Here also are roomy cupboards containing the resection trays, bowls and other crockery used for operations, while a gas stove provides for the easy sterilisation of all these. Outside is a cupboard in which all the necessary tea-things are stored, and an attractive array they present. Only the larger plates and dishes, says Miss Stower, go down to the kitchen, the smaller meals are all prepared and arranged upstairs. When an operation is to be performed, the patient on the preceding night sleeps in an adjoining room, thus permitting the room to be used for the operation to be thoroughly prepared. This Miss Stower considers to be less disturbing to the patient than taking him (or her) into an operating theatre. The cleaning of the room Miss Stower herself superintends, all the essentials receiving the personal attention of herself and her nurses. No water is permitted in the room which has not been boiled, and all bowls and trays, instruments, and towels used during the operation are previously sterilised. At an operation the nursing staff wear white linen wrappers, specially kept for the purpose. Certainly it would seem that every care is taken to provide, not only for the comfort and happiness of the patients, but to surround them with the surgical cleanliness, which is the first essential in their successful treatment and nursing.

I must not forget to mention the attractive appearance of the house outside; and the open door, the doorway being protected only by a holland curtain, told of fresh air throughout the house.

M. B.

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