

soldiers. The Government pays so much towards its maintenance, and it is nursed by male Nurses and Sisters, but we could not see over it.

The Bath-rooms of any of the Hospitals abroad I have visited have not made an impression. We could teach the French especially, who do not seem to know the bath as a general thing, how to manage these things better. The Ward kitchens, too, were ugly and bare; but the copper saucepans looked nice. The Sisters' sitting-rooms are placed at the end of the Wards—just as ours are—but they were very bare and comfortless, and the side next the Ward being chiefly glass, one could see in without difficulty; and the whole thing struck me as being anything but a cosy place for a few minutes' rest and quiet.

At Paris we found the Hotel Dieu more like our English Hospital than the one at Rouen. We had to get permission from the Secretary before going over. We were then conducted over it by the Porter, as there is no Lady Superintendent. The Hospital is a noble building (grander as seen from the Court-yard than the Hospital at Milan); it is a new building, and cost seven hundred and twenty thousand francs to build. We only went over the female side, and found it cleaner and in every way better than the Rouen Hospital. There are seven hundred beds in the Hospital, and it costs two shillings and tenpence per day to keep a bed—the patients do not pay, however. There is a large Nursing staff—namely, forty-eight Probationers, twenty-one Sisters, and six supernumeraries for the female side; and fifty-three male Nurses and seven Sisters for the male side. The Theatres we saw were neither very clean nor tidy, and the Porter told us some funny stories about the operations done under mesmerism; how, when the Doctor put the patient to sleep in the Ward, and told her to walk to the Theatre, she ran upstairs and got on the roof, and it was some time before they caught her.

The Kitchens in this Hospital are splendid, and I was struck by the two large basins made out of solid pieces of yellow marble, and standing about three feet high, in which they washed the vegetables. There was a grating at the bottom and a tap fixed at the top, so that, as the clean water ran in, the soiled water was bound to run out; this is so much better than washing vegetables as we do in nine cases out of ten. On leaving the Hospital we only got a peep into the Out-patients' Department, which was very large.

ONE hour a day given to useful reading will make any bright man—or woman—well informed in a few years, and at a cost so little that it will hardly be felt.

NURSING ECHOES.

*** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.*

WE have received a good many letters this week in reference to the Annual Report of the British Nurses' Association, which appeared in last week's issue of this Journal. One or two write to express their pleasure that the system of Registration is to be begun at once, or at the announcement that the Council's programme for the next year includes the institution of the Benevolent Fund and of a Holiday House for Nurses. But, oh! the indignant letters we have received from more than one Nurse upon the subject of the schemes which it seems are not to be attempted within the next twelve months. Several especially complain bitterly that the Central Home in London is not to be started, "because they wish for such a place to stay at when they visit town." Mr. Editor, therefore, asks me to explain here that most people think the Association would be most unwise to undertake this large scheme at this early period of its existence. For house rent and taxes are very high in London, and an income derived from a limited number of half-crowns, however carefully managed, cannot go very far after all.

FOR example, a sufficiently large house in a central district would cost £300 a year in rent alone, and at least £1,000 to furnish. Seeing that the Association only has an income of £500 a year, and only £800 invested, it is evident that it would be ridiculous for it to attempt to undertake such a scheme at present. But I would utter a word of consolation. Rome was not built in a day, and the Association cannot be expected to do everything at once. Just judging by the results which have been achieved in a short eighteen months, there is every probability that in time all that the Association has determined to do will be accomplished. I should like, however, to ask my correspondents, who expect the leaders of the Medical and Nursing world to do so much for them, what they are doing to help the Association.

I AM glad to hear that some public recognition has been shown of the great work which Miss Lloyd, the Superior of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, in the district of South Kensington, has done for the sick poor for the past eighteen years. On Miss Lloyd's resignation, recently, a purse of £512 was presented to her, together with an illuminated address, by Mrs. Rice Byrne, acting on behalf of those who have been working with

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