

surgical surveillante, the other from a medical one. They are women who would rank with our dear old Sisters, the kind, dear, old-fashioned kind, who petted, snubbed and mothered us alternately, but who taught us how to make a good hot poultice, and knew to the instant when the crisis was coming. I always envied the patient when Sister came round and helped me to put on his nice, dry, clean things, arranged his pillows exactly in the right place, gave him a hot drink, tucked him in and said to him, "Now, daddy, go to sleep"; such nice, comfortable, fat, motherly things they were!

These surveillantes, however, have a pull over our old-fashioned Sisters. They were, so to speak, the gold-medallists of their day (laureates), and there were no grammatical mistakes in their speech. On the contrary, they expressed themselves clearly, distinctly and powerfully, being exceedingly capable women, and having complete power over their language.

They set about their lectures most methodically. The surgical surveillante first started by teaching us the names of the materials used in surgery—gauzes, bandages, instruments, antiseptics, &c., and their uses. This took many lessons—bandaging, testing, the preparation of different instruments for the different operations, &c. The medical surveillante started by bed-making for simple cases, for incontinent cases, for different surgical, &c.—first without a patient and then with, and thus they worked up their subject from the simplest to the most complicated things. And all they did was done well—nay, beautifully and most skilfully. Thus it will be seen that French women are capable of making excellent nurses. They are quick, capable and skilful with their hands and technique, and I have not the slightest doubt that in another ten years the French municipal hospitals will be quite different, for they are all awake to the fact that secularisation has been badly done, and not that secularisation is a bad thing. The nurses themselves are conscious of the fact, and now that they are being recruited from a better class, and that they are being given a better position by the Assistance Publique, they will respect themselves more.

The surveillantes in the kitchens and the laundries and other departments do not rank now with the nursing surveillantes, who are to be distinguished by a gold star in the front of their caps, and the *filles de service* are to be distinguished from the nurses by the absence of black bands in their caps.

Then, again, this new college which is being built at the Salpêtrière is going to raise the profession still higher, for the standard of education required will be a high one.

Unquestionably, Mme. Alphen Salvador has done much, for it is she who has known how to give an object-lesson to the Government, and what Paris is going to do will be followed by the provincial towns, for in the course of time this reform movement is

going to succeed, and I believe it will be thus: The better-educated woman will obtain the higher posts; the strong, healthy, fairly-educated girl will do the work—a case of officers and men. France will never supply a sufficiently large number of ladies to fill its hospitals. French parents are thrifty; they rarely die and leave their daughters unprovided for. French girls marry more, and when they are broken-hearted they love the convent and the veil. The nuns will never die out in France, and there will always be private hospitals built and given for their use.

Time and circumstances alone will show how things will evolve. At the Crimea English nurses were the least efficient, and British hospitals a subject which Dickens alone could describe. Until a few months ago, we believed the British nurse to be the most perfect. Now we hear, from even their enemies, that the Japanese nurse stands on a pedestal alone.

The *Temps* had an article on the subject only this week. The correspondent writes from Japan, and he says "they are always sweet, gentle, cheerful, quick, bright, deft, and docile. They have no nerves, they are never tired, never irritable, never sad, and they never seem to be hard." Envious creatures; how delightful it must be to have no nerves, and never to feel irritable, depressed, or tired. And how nice for them not to have to fight, beg and pray for State recognition, and not to be torn to pieces by different associations, not thinking of our good, but their own personal piques. Alas! when I look at our profession and realise its disorganisation, it appears to me it would be wiser not to see a beam in the eye of our neighbour until our own vision is somewhat less obscured.

Foreign Sanatoria.

Amongst the many foreign Spas to which invalids from all parts of the world now make their way, Nauheim has quite recently taken a somewhat leading position. Until 1839 its springs were chiefly used for the preparation of salt. In that year they were fitted up for the first time as a Saline Spa, but it was not until the seventies that visitors with heart complaints began to visit the place. Its bathing arrangements then became much improved, and at the present day it may fairly be said that there is perhaps no Spa on the Continent whose equipment is better than that of Nauheim. There are now three warm carbonic acid springs for baths; three springs used for medicinal drinks; and Inhalation and Electric-light rooms. The number of visitors is increasing by leaps and bounds. In 1904 it had no less than 24,000 visitors, who took 357,776 baths, and more than half the visitors to Nauheim are now patients suffering from more or less advanced heart disease, for whom the baths, and suitable exercises and diet, are most carefully prescribed and adapted.

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