

Then, among the nurses, while again military system was apparent, one's heart sank. I think the uniform is largely accountable for this impression. The nurses are most carefully uniformed, with different kinds of caps showing the different grades, different ribbon bands, &c., and, alas, the uniforms are lamentable. The junior nurses wear a linen supposed to be white. It is, instead, the sad, hopeless grey of badly-laundered hospital sheets. The dresses are made with much fulness, big linen squares tied on for aprons, and these of the most disheartening grime. The caps are not plain and simple, like the unassuming but spotless linen of the German Sisters. They are flimsy, coquettish, elaborate, with velvet or ribbon bands, small, perched upon untidy hair, and so dirty that they are funny. Altogether the impression is quite indescribable. The "surveillantes," who wear a dark-coloured dress, look much better, although still far from the ideal. Many of the younger nurses one sees have a callous expression and a flippant manner; then, on the contrary, one meets quite frequently rather older women who give one a cheering impression of character, worth, and ability. I was told in one of the hospitals by a young physician that striking improvements in the nursing staff had taken place in the last two years.

The classification of the nurses was something I did not get straight, but those who take the training appear to be distinguished from the others by a special title. The "surveillantes," or supervising nurses, are in five classes. The "Matron" of the English hospitals, or the superintendent of nurses of ours, is conspicuous by her absence, and no one realises what she is to a hospital until one visits hospitals where she is not. To her non-existence I attribute all the chilly unhomelikeness, lack of "atmosphere," and general dreariness that one finds in many of these big European barracks of hospitals, some of which look no pleasanter to live in than if they were so many clinical laboratories. The old Hôtel Dieu is one of the dreariest of all. It is one of two which still retain the Sisters of Charity, owing, I believe, to some clause in its constitution. The statues of Bishop Landry and two of the early French kings stand near the entrance, and they certainly have not been dusted in fifty years.

The Boucicaut, which is a very beautiful pavilion hospital, was built not long ago by private benevolence and placed under the management of the city.  
(To be continued.)

We regret to record the death of Miss Hepburn, Matron of Thomas Walker's Hospital, Fraserburgh, which took place suddenly after three days' illness from pneumonia. Miss Hepburn was held in high regard by those acquainted with her work, and the institution is, by her death, deprived of a valuable officer.

## Echoes of the Washington Convention.

### THE AFFILIATION OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

A short time ago we published a paper read by Miss Helen Todd on "The Affiliation of the Smaller and Special Hospitals for Training Purposes" before the Matrons' Council. It is interesting to note that almost at the same time Mrs. Hampton Robb presented to the American Federation of Nurses at Washington a paper on "The Affiliation of Training-Schools for Nurses for Educational Purposes." Mrs. Robb desires for each of the United States a scheme similar to that which British nurses are seeking for the United Kingdom. We print the conclusion of this valuable paper.

"In endeavouring to arrange for the affiliation of training-schools I would advocate the establishment of central institutes in each State offering a comprehensive theoretical and practical training in general nursing. Such institutes would be independent of any particular hospital, but would be organised and administered through a central committee composed of the proper representatives from the hospitals and schools entering into the affiliation. The proper representatives would be chosen from among those most nearly concerned in the welfare of each hospital—namely, the trustees of the hospital, the medical staff, the superintendent of the hospital, and the principal of the training-school. A proper selection of this board is the first essential, for with the best intentions in the world no outside element could fully understand or successfully deal with the particular needs and conditions belonging to the education of nurses. From these several sources a properly balanced committee on training-school affairs should be selected, such committees combined forming the central committee of the central nursing institute. The institute, be it distinctly understood, would have to do not only with preliminary courses in connection with the preparation of candidates, but would be responsible for the entire education in general nursing of accepted candidates. Upon this central committee would devolve the fixing of a standard of general training, the preparation of a general curriculum, the selection of lecturers, instructors, and inspectors, the determination of a plan of rotation from one hospital to another, the definite ground to be covered in each hospital, and the management of the finances of the institute. This central committee would be divided into the necessary sub-committees, among which might be mentioned the Committee on Finance and the committee dealing with the admission of probationers, inasmuch as all applicants to any school in affiliation would be referred to the central institute for acceptance or rejection. Such

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