

One need scarcely point out what admirable surgical work is done in the small provincial hospitals, although comparatively little medical experience is to be gained in them. Here the work of the fever hospitals would come in. This is especially valuable nowadays, when enteric fever and diphtheria are not admitted to the wards of so many general hospitals; and surely it is not unreasonable to add chest hospitals and sanatoria to our groups, when we remember how large a proportion of our nurses will work in private houses, and that consumption being responsible for 14 per 1,000 of the annual death rate in this country, must also be one of the illnesses most commonly met with apart from hospital work. Again, it is very generally recognised that it is undesirable to admit girls under twenty-three years of age to large training-schools, but I cannot think there is any objection to their beginning work at an earlier age in a smaller institution where they are working much more under the actual eye of the Matron; besides, many girls cannot afford to wait in idleness until they are twenty-three, and in no other walk of life is this necessary.

Affiliation will also prevent the granting of worthless certificates by small and special institutions, and check the increasing number of partially-trained nurses who at present issue from these hospitals armed with so-called certificates to the danger of the public.

6. Is affiliation practical?

Emphatically yes. This has already been proved in several cases, of which I may instance.

The Seamen's Hospital, which sends its probationers for six months to the Soho Hospital for Women. The training is recognised by the Nursing Services, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and Local Government Board.

The Brompton Hospital, which has an arrangement by which its probationers receive a year's training in general work at Guy's, St. Thomas's, or the Marylebone Infirmary. This training is recognised by the Metropolitan Asylums and Local Government Boards, though not, I believe, by the Nursing Services.

An interesting discussion followed, from which we gathered that the Matrons present considered the scheme suggested both desirable and practicable.

### "Dont's" for First Aiders.

A set of six post-cards for the information and instruction of those who render first aid to the injured has been brought out by Mr. Fred Reynolds. They are both clever and amusing, and we advise all who are collectors of post cards, to add them to their collections forthwith. They are published by Reynolds and Branston, Ltd., Ambulance Experts, Leeds.

## The Revolution in French Hospitals.

By Miss LAVINIA L. DOCK.

Volumes of history could be written upon the French hospitals and their ups and downs, and the deeply significant and important changes which have been going on for the last two decades in these hospitals and their nursing service can hardly be intelligently grasped without some knowledge of previous history. As tremendous and complete a revolution as occurred in English hospitals as a result of the work of Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, and Louisa Twining has been going on in the French hospitals, but not so peacefully or with such general public approbation and support. It would, indeed, be a most superficial judgment were one to go into the hospitals of Paris to-day and simply criticise them as they appear in comparison with the English hospitals without considering all the circumstances and previous conditions, and without remembering the social conditions. It is true that a nurse from a good English or American hospital, if suddenly dropped down into one of the huge city hospitals of Paris, would see almost nothing that she could admire and much that would shock her and impress her most painfully. Nevertheless, the only just way to estimate what she sees is by acquainting herself with the problem that lay before the authorities and the medical staff and with which they are still wrestling.

The first hospital in France was at Lyons, founded by King Childebert. In 816 Charlemagne decreed that in each bishop's see a canon should govern the hospital, and that the latter should always be near the cathedral, so that the clergy might easily visit the sick. The Hôtel Dieu, placed near the church of Notre Dame, remains an example of this relation between church and hospital.

The early Christian kings all took much interest in hospitals, and the archives of this venerable old hospital, the oldest of which is said to be dated 1157, contain many historical pages of deepest interest.

The histories tell us that, by some reaction after great emergencies from epidemics in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, hospitals were neglected, and both clergy and nobles used the funds for other purposes. In 1561 Henri III. took the management of the hospitals out of their hands and put it in that of shopkeepers and labourers. However, things were no better. A committee appointed by Louis XIV. to examine into the hospitals reported frightful conditions—insane, medical, and surgical patients all crowded together—and the control went back to the religious corporations. It was in the sixteenth century that St. Vincent de Paul founded

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