

is affixed to the wall on the left of the main entrance, has been executed and presented to the hospital by M. Lanteri, of the South Kensington School of Art, who is a member of the committee of the hospital. The cost of casting it in bronze and the incidental expenses have been defrayed by subscriptions from members of the French colony in London, the list having been headed by a handsome donation from the French Ambassador. The figures 1830-1904, the years of the birth and death of Dr. Vintras, appear at the head, and underneath there is the inscription:—"Au Docteur Achille Vintras, Fondateur et Docteur en Chef de L'Hôpital Français à Londres, la Colonie Française Reconnaisante, 1905." Below this again, there appears the Latin inscription:—"Patria: Pertransiit Benefaciendo: Caritas."

St. Mary's Hospital has received a bequest of £2,000 from the executors of Mr. J. H. Lucking towards the £17,000 additional income required to maintain the work of the hospital during the present year.

The Committee of King's College Hospital Removal Fund has received 100 guineas from Mr. T. F. Blackwell.

Mr. Philip Henry Vaughan, Vice-President of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, has announced to the President, Sir George White, his intention to subscribe £5,000 towards the £50,000 fund which the committee are raising.

Harrogate Infirmary is to be enlarged at a cost of between £4,000 and £5,000. Among the additions will be a waiting-room, a new operating theatre, with anæsthetic room, stores and lavatories, &c.; and a ward on the first floor. The number of beds in the infirmary will be increased from forty to fifty-eight, and a number of additional staff bedrooms will be provided near the operating theatre.

The Earl of Dartmouth, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, recently laid the foundation stone of a nurses' home at West Bromwich with Masonic ceremonial. The home is designed to accommodate twenty-four nurses, and is estimated to cost between £3,000 and £4,000, with an endowment fund of £10,000. Donations of about £5,000 have already been received.

Members of the Society of Chemical Industry paid a visit on Saturday to the Wellcome Club and Institute, Dartford, Kent, on the occasion of the celebration by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. of a quarter of a century of existence. The day's programme was long and varied, beginning with a display by the private fire brigade of the institute, and going on, through aquatic sports, a luncheon to 2,000 in a huge marquee, athletic sports, Maypole dances, a dinner party, and fireworks and illuminations, to an open-air concert. Many eminent medical men were present, and Mr. H. S. Wellcome made an ideal host.

The *Novoe Vremya's* correspondent with the Fourth Siberian Corps telegraphs that the Chinese report the advent of hot weather producing plague among the Japanese forces in the neighbourhood of Mukden by reason of the immense number of lightly-buried corpses of men and horses. They also assert that cholera is prevalent, particularly in General Kawamura's army.

Our Foreign Letter.

THE RUE VERGINETOREX TRAINING-SCHOOL.



On Friday, June 2nd, 1905, the above training-school for lady-nurses (dames - infirmières) was opened in Paris.

Dr. Letulle and Dr. H. de

Rothschild both gave addresses, explaining the need of such a school and the cause of its birth, and they both gave Mdlle. Chaptal (the Secretary) every credit for having been the prime mover. Mdlle. Chaptal's name in France is well known through her efforts in fighting against tuberculosis amongst the poor and labouring classes.

In speaking of this training-school, the *Temps* says:—

"This work, founded by women and for women, is formed in order to offer to young ladies of the middle class with small means an honourable professional life—that of a nurse of the sick (garde-malade). They will choose candidates of good education and high moral character, who feel themselves gifted for the painful and hard, but exemplary life of an infirmière."

Though one is glad to have such a dignified and weighty paper as the *Temps* speak so highly and approvingly of the matter, and to admit that the life of a nurse is an honourable and professional one (which is more than some people will acknowledge in England!), yet one would like to hear of French young ladies of rank, position, and means, who would be willing to put their shoulders to the wheel, and thus dignify the work.

Nursing is an art, and, like all others, it is a jealous one, and not likely to succeed and rise to its height unless it has the fire of *Love* as its motor power.

Amongst its pioneers must be those who are working for the love of the work itself on the same principle as "Art for the sake of Art," and not for money, not yet a livelihood.

This school has been recognised by a legal Act, and will therefore receive all the required support from Mr. Mesureur and the Council of the Assistance Publique. Its social supporters consist of prominent and wealthy women, such as Mme. Taine, Baroness de Rothschild, Duchess de Gramont, Mme. Soulange Bodin, and the Comtesse de Caraman, whilst over thirty of the most influential doctors have promised their help in allowing the pupils to acquire their practical training in their wards in the municipal hospitals.

This will be a great advantage to the pupils, as they will receive their training in every branch under the greatest men France can produce.

The course of instruction is to be for two years, but the nurses will be required to give three years' more service in private nursing in order to refund the institution for the heavy expenses it has incurred.

This seems rather hard, as all the pupils have to pay for their training, at prices varying from £30 to £40, and from £40 to £50 per annum, according to whether they sleep in dormitories or different-sized bedrooms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)