

clusion that women of refinement and education were far behind those of other countries in going into public work. Even as late as to-day, at International Congresses, the number of French women representing voluntary social reform and public-spirited movements is strikingly smaller than the number of those from other countries of equal size.

In Germany, the organised activity of the women in the war of 1813 gave the actual impetus to the early nursing movement of Kaiserswerth and the Deaconess houses, and the Franco-Prussian War gave an enormous stimulus to women's work in hospitals, under the Red Cross, and in works of general benevolence. But, strangely, the war does not appear to have shown this result in France. Certainly there was no general movement among women of the better class to become active in hospital management and to create or themselves enter into the work of trained nursing. It is possible that those who by character and position were fitted for this kind of service were already in the banished orders. Whatever the reasons, one cannot but be struck by the absence of the women, the isolated loneliness of the men in their reform, and cannot but admire and respect the courage, patience, and persistence of the latter most heartily. When one thinks of the Vienna hospital, and the complete indifference of the men there to the wretched nursing conditions, and contrasts it with the purpose and the ideals of the French directors and medical chiefs, one's admiration increases even to warm recognition and gratitude. For at least their ideals and purposes are high and good. They wish to have an educated and efficient nursing staff. They wish to elevate and to teach the nurse. They want her to be the capable colleague of the physician. They recognise the deficiencies and their efforts have been heroic. Especially must one regard Dr. Bourneville as pre-eminent in this movement for nursing reform. Everything that they could do themselves they have done, and if their results do not seem to us good, it is because there are some things they cannot do. Let us repeat that the task has been herculean. Friends of the banished sisters in the lay management tried to baulk the efforts of the reforming medical chiefs, and opponents of the new order in the medical staff made it hard for lay managers who tried to reform the new service. These things happen everywhere, and in all kinds of work, especially in educational reforms.

(To be continued.)

At the meeting of the County Council on Tuesday a resolution was adopted committing the Council to the principle of providing and maintaining a service of street ambulances to deal with street accidents. Sir William Collins declared that the Metropolitan Asylums Board would not undertake the removal of accident cases, and said that in this particular London was the worst city in the world.

Honours for Miss Peter.

On Saturday afternoon the Queen received at Buckingham Palace Miss Peter, Superintendent of Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses, who is retiring from her post in the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, after seventeen years' service. Her Majesty expressed her regret at the loss to the Institute which Miss Peter's resignation would cause, and said many kind words as to the work she had done, and presented her with a beautiful brooch, which will be deeply valued. Her Majesty sent, through Miss Peter, a special message of encouragement in their work to the 1,400 Queen's Nurses attending the sick poor in their homes throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. This gracious message from their Patron should give great encouragement to all the Queen's Nurses.

A special meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held by permission of Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll at Kensington Palace on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of a presentation to Miss Peter on her resignation of the office of General Superintendent, which she has held for so many years. Her Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duke of Argyll and attended by Captain Probert.

In a short speech introducing Miss Peter, the Duchess of Buccleuch touched feelingly upon the great services of Miss Peter as a Queen's Nurse, first of all in Scotland under the Presidency of Her Royal Highness, and subsequently as general superintendent of the institute. The Duchess of Buccleuch also referred to the estimation in which Miss Peter was held, as evidenced by the personal presentation recently made to her by Her Majesty the Queen as patron of the institute.

Her Royal Highness handed Miss Peter a laudatory resolution of the Council and a cheque. In doing so she said that as one of those who knew the work of the Queen's Nurses from its initiation it gave her great pleasure to take her part with the rest of the Council in thanking Miss Peter very warmly for all her past services, and wishing her health and happiness in the future.

Miss Peter expressed her very great gratitude for the honour done her, and a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness was then proposed by Mr. Bonham-Carter, seconded by the Marchioness of Londonderry, and passed with acclamation.

The following members of the Council were present:—The Duchess of Buccleuch, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Lady Mary Howard, Lady Victoria Lambton, the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, Lady Blythwood, Amy Lady Tate, Mrs. William Minet, Mrs. George Byron, Sir Stanley Clarke, Mr. Henry Bonham-Carter, Mr. Harold Boulton (hon. treasurer), and Mr. W. G. Rathbone (hon. secretary).

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