

patronage of a committee, of which Madame the Baronne James de Rothschild, experienced in charitable questions, is president. This committee, formed later into an association, and represented by its secretary, has taken possession of a large building, surrounded by extensive grounds, situated in the 14th arrondissement of Paris.

Here, twenty-four resident pupils can be received during their two years' training, and here they can always return during the intervals between their private cases, to imbibe again the spirit of their "mother-home," build up their physical and moral strength, and keep themselves in touch with the development and progress of their profession. It is important to point out that this institution is founded on no religious creed, but at the same time the most absolute liberty of conscience is allowed the pupils, and they are taught to respect the faith and creed of their patients.

The principle of training which the managing committee has in view, and which is endorsed by the medical committee, is mainly based on practical work. A few lectures will be given, but these will consist only of subjects which bear directly on the work of a nurse. These lectures are given in the Home-School by medical and surgical practitioners, who are members of the medical committee, amongst whom we must mention the following: Dr. Maurice Letulle, senior physician of the Hospital Boucicault; Dr. Aviraguet, physician to the municipal hospitals; Dr. Guibé, and Monsieur le Professeur Berger (the latter is a Lutheran surgeon of great fame, who was one of the greatest supporters of nuns and deaconesses and one of the bitterest opponents of Dr. Bournville, the great seculariser. E.R.W.)

With regard to the practical training, continues Mademoiselle Chaptal, the committee did not consider it necessary to annex a private hospital. Without pointing out the considerable expense that such an undertaking would have involved, it was considered unadvisable to start a general hospital with a small and untrained staff to begin with. On the contrary, it seemed preferable to offer the pupils, during their two-years' training, as large a variety of cases as possible, and give them every chance of seeing special departments, which we could not offer them in a small hospital, and which they would certainly require to know during their career.

Thus, thanks to the extreme kindness of Monsieur the Director of the *Assistance Publique*, the first pupils have been admitted into the most varied departments of the municipal hospitals of Paris, starting their work the first

thing in the morning, ending at noon, taking it by turn to go on duty in the afternoon, as well as night duty.

The twenty-four months of training have been divided thus:

Probation in the Home, one month; medical, four months; surgical, four months; children's surgical, two months; children's medical, two months; monthly and infants' nursing, four months; special course of instruction in disinfection and infectious diseases, one month in the Pasteur Institute. Special subjects such as insanity, diseases of the nervous system, etc., four months.

These different stages, augmented by a month's rest every year, complete the circuit of their professional training.

Every pupil, with the exception of the *boursières* (i.e., those paid for by others), who are admitted by the managing-committee, have to pay for their training (from about £3 4s. a month) and to find their uniform. They sign an agreement for 5 years, inclusive of their training. On receiving their diplomas from the medical committee, they are placed on the private nursing staff for the next three years; when 10 per cent. of their profits is deducted, which goes to defray the heavy expenses incurred, on account of the small charge which is made during their training.

A second category of pupils is also admitted for training—i.e., children's nurses. The same conditions of engagement and of fees are made, but as their work is of a limited and special nature, the training lasts one year only. The limit of age is also modified for children's nurses, and they are admitted at the age of eighteen instead of twenty-one, as for the hospital nurses.

As it will be clearly seen, the Home School for private nurses, has in view the object of meeting a very important need. The children's nurses represent *prevention*, for their intelligent care, will in many cases prevent the need of sending for the help of a hospital nurse. Is it not a hundred times better to prevent than to cure? It was therefore not inconsistent with nor a deviation from the object of the institution to unite into one work the training of children's nurses and hospital nurses.

I will end this concise report by expressing good wishes for the future of this work. Is it not, also reasonable to be allowed to hope that it will be understood as it aspires to be, considering that it has been founded and is managed by persons of the greatest authority; that it recruits its pupils from the most cultured social centres, and that

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