

the first volume of their history. This volume deals with the care of the sick in the most comprehensive manner from the earliest ages until 1875, when the era of modern nursing began. The second volume will include accurate history of the movement to date, and they have wisely enlisted the help of prominent nurses all over the world, who have helped to make modern nursing the skilled profession that it is. The second history is being written by a medical man, Dr. Worcester, of Waltham, U.S.A.; and a third by Mrs. Sarah Tooley in this country. It will be interesting to compare the points of view taken by these three diverse elements.

For a long time, says the *Bulletin Professionnel des Infirmières and des Gardes Malades* it has been decided in principle that the Hotel Dieu at Paris, and the Hospital of St. Louis should be placed in lay hands and the time for the change is now very near—namely, November 15th next. The Sisters from the Hotel Dieu and St. Louis will go to Boucicaut, and, to another hospital, in connection with which the administration in accepting a legacy has also taken upon itself perpetual liabilities. It is to the credit of Monsieur Clemenceau and M. Mesureur that they have found an amicable means of effecting this displacement.

Dr. Alice L. Ernst is appealing for scholarships for nurses in training at the Mary S. Ackerman Hoyt Hospital in Ihansi. Such assistance is, she says, becoming imperative. There are now nine nurses in training who are poor Christian girls, and who must be clothed and fed while they are being trained. The estimated cost is a little over ten pounds a year.

A hospital maintained by the sisters of charity of Berlin has recently been sued for damages by the relatives of a man who jumped out of a window while delirious in pneumonia. The plaintiff stated that she had sent her husband to the hospital so that he could have better supervision than at home, but he had been left alone and he seized the opportunity to commit suicide. She claimed that the suicide could not have occurred if he had been properly watched. The hospital authorities said that close supervision all the time was impossible for the limited nursing force of the hospital, and that they had no funds to increase the nursing force. The judge held the nurse in charge of the case at the time responsible for the man's death and imposed the fine asked. It was a charity case.

Reforms at the Nurses' Hostel.

The meeting between the directors and four nurses of the Nurses' Hostel on Friday, 5th, was of a most disappointing character. Three nurses, Miss Beatrice Kent, Miss Foster, and Mrs. Pettitt (shareholder) were selected to represent those who had formulated complaints, and Miss Thwaites went apparently to support the officials. Upon the advice of Miss Paul, the retiring secretary, the latter proposed to interview the directors after her three colleagues had withdrawn; but they naturally objected to this, and desired that all should attend together and hear what was said on both sides. This straightforward course was ultimately adopted. The directors were accompanied by a solicitor, and the nurses stated their own case.

Miss Kent, who had prepared a statement, upon making her opening remarks, was at once called to order by the Chairman, Sir Allen Johnson—and told not to mention Miss Hulme—as the nurses had absolutely nothing to do with her dismissal, and it was stated that they had no more right to criticise the directors' action in this matter "than if they had discharged the cook," a remark which places very distinctly before professional nurses their helpless position—especially when they realise the fact that there are laws on the Statute Book dealing with the rights of domestic servants—but that there is not one law referring to trained nurses as such. Hence the need for State Registration of Nurses. As the treatment of Miss Hulme was the chief point at issue between the nurses and the Board, it required a good deal of dodging around this grievance to express their views, but it was done. To Miss Kent's remark that "it would surely be advantageous to the Hostel Company to have a popular head such as Miss Hulme," Sir Allen Johnson replied that "we considered she would be an enemy to the Hostel!"

Miss Kent dealt ably with the various complaints at issue. Mrs. Pettitt enquired if shareholders in the Hostel Company had any rights in this matter, to which Miss Wood replied in the negative, but upon Mrs. Pettitt asking if the shareholders had not the right to vote for the directors, the reply was a grudging "Yes." The inference is obvious.

Miss Foster endorsed Miss Kent's statement and said it would have been criminal upon the part of the Hostel nurses not to protest when one of their number was treated with injustice. The directors' solicitor asked why if residents in the Hostel were not satisfied they did not go—and if shareholders were not satisfied why they did not sell their shares?—a sort of take it or leave it policy, which just minded persons object to pursue. Then Miss Paul who had taken an active part in the discussion, said they had "heard enough of this" and after Miss Thwaites had offered incense before the official shrine, the delegates were dismissed as they put it, "like children."

It is reported that Miss Chamberlain, who, as a great friend of Miss Paul was to have succeeded as

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