

The Salpêtrière Training School.

It is to be hoped that nothing will happen to prevent the new college for French nurses from being opened this month; for those who have worked so hard for French nursing reform will at last feel they have made a start in their long looked-for plans.

It is noteworthy that the rules and regulations drawn up in 1903 have undergone changes, for, as things have evolved and developed, so those who have been watching and studying the cause have seen reason to alter some of the rules and the mode of carrying out their plans and hopes. The following are some of the new rules:—

1. To change the word *directrice* for *surveillante générale* (*surveillante*, it is to be remembered is the equivalent of Sister of a ward). The reason of this change is to make clear and define exactly the position of the head of the school, who is to be subject to the authority of the *directeur* of the *Salpêtrière*, as well as to emphasise the fact that she is not only to possess the qualities of a teacher but all the professional qualities of the best of sisters.

All I can say about this rule is that as long as Mr. Montreuil is *directeur* of the *Salpêtrière*, no woman in France need mind being under his control, for he is not only chivalrous in his nature to women, born to rule with ease and justice, but he knows more about the nursing question from an international and historical point of view than anybody else in France. He is, therefore, for the time being, the most suitable person to guide, form and direct the new prospective *surveillante générale*. But what about the future?

2. The candidates who are to be eligible for admission are to be of French nationality, single, age 18 to 25; the candidate must also produce a birth certificate, and pass a physical examination by a medical commission.

The compulsion of celibacy is to be adhered to during the two years of training, because they have found out that it is not possible for a woman to perform her duties of wife and mother and conform herself to the *régime* of a training school. The age limit of twenty-five has been decided on as the character, up till then is still pliable and capable of being formed and shaped for the life and duties of a nurse.

Thus it is that we learn by experience and our own experience teaches us best how to steer. And though I, in no way, wish to depreciate the splendid work Mme. Alphen Salvador has done in steering for a high

standard of lay nursing in France, at the same time, if I were French, I would throw all my energies into the municipal hospitals of Paris, where 15,000 to 20,000 are nurses employed. Under the most trying conditions, the most terrible temptations and impure surroundings, some of these women have turned out, not only splendid nurses, but splendid examples of true womanhood. If only the public were to cease looking upon lay nursing as derogatory service, if only the Government were to lodge and feed them better, if only the clerical party and priests treated them with more respect, the whole tone of the hospitals would rise and they would draw, if not ladies, at all events, nice respectable, educated women of the lower middle-class, instead of the ignorant peasantry of Normandy and Brittany, or the refuse of Parisian population.

I repeat again, that though the two training schools of the Rue Amyot and the Rue St. Vercingétorex are doing a splendid work, and have dealt the first blows towards nursing reform, my sympathy goes with men like Dr. Bourneville and Monsieur Montreuil and others who are making gigantic efforts to raise nursing into an educational, dignified profession, and who have given so many years of their lives to accomplish some of the labours of Hercules.

They have my heartfelt wishes for success—
during their lifetime.

E. R. WORTABET.

King Edward's Coronation Fund for Nurses.

A meeting of the Council of the above Society was recently held at 85, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, Mr. Andrew Beatty, J.P., presided. There were also present: Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B.; Mr. Marcus Tertius Moses, Mr. Richard Dowse, Hon. Secretary; Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C. Lady Superintendent, Richmond Hospital; Miss Lamont, Lady Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Nurses; Miss Ramsden, Lady Superintendent Rotunda Hospital; and Miss M. E. MacDonnell, Secretary. The Hon. Treasurer's report was read and confirmed. The Hon. Secretaries reported that since last meeting applications for membership from six nurses were considered and accepted.

An application having been made by a nurse member for assistance to help her over the period of convalescence after an operation, the Council granted her a sum of £10.

Nurses requiring information regarding the Society are requested to apply to the Secretary 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

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