

the management of children was inborn, if the germ was not there it could not be acquired. But the love of children was innate in the average woman, and provided the germ was present it could be developed.

In regard to the hand-feeding of infants, Dr. Champneys said there were more fashionable mothers, with large social obligations, who found time to perform their duty to their off-spring than many people were aware of.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mrs. Fenwick.

THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE CONFERENCE.

On the afternoon of Saturday, November 24th, Mrs. Fenwick, Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses, presided, when Miss Mollett gave an informal talk on Paris, which at present is a centre of interest as the place in which the International Nursing Conference will be held next year.

Mrs. Fenwick described the foundation of the International Council of Nurses in 1899 and read the Preamble to its Constitution. She told of the foundation of National Councils in America and Germany, and of the Provisional Committee in Great Britain, also of the organisation of Dutch and Danish Nurses. She briefly mentioned the meetings of the International Council of Nurses in Buffalo in 1901 and in Berlin in 1904 and announced the next quinquennial meeting of the Council in 1909. She then referred to the modern nursing movement in France, and the hope of the organisers of the International Conference to be held at Paris next year that mutual help and understanding might result from the visit to Paris of the nurses of other nations and their intercourse with their French sisters. That was the *raison d'être* of the meeting. She said that the French nursing papers were already beginning to draw attention to the Conference, and a doctor only recently had in one of them mentioned the fact that there was at present no central organisation of nurses in Paris to meet the visitors, but it was hoped that this might be rectified.

The question was how to make the Paris Conference most helpful. A suggested programme had been drawn up by the International Councillors in this country and sent to Miss Dock for the consideration in America. Then everyone would want to know how best to spend their time in Paris and what they should see. She would call upon Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Hospital, to tell them something about Paris.

MISS MOLLETT.

Miss Mollett said that to paint Paris in brilliant colours was like painting the lily, or

gilding fine gold. There was a certain mythological person who appeared to every man as his heart's desire. This was Paris. For centuries past she had always been an irresistible attraction to all Europe. So long ago as the 17th and 18th centuries the complaint was made that the young German princelets would go to Paris. She had the same fascination for Danes, Swedes, and Russians, and during the truce in 1806 everyone rushed to Paris to get clothes.

Paris was the one city which appealed to all, whatever their tastes they could be satisfied there.

Miss Mollett described her first visit to Paris as a small child. On the first day she was taken out to lunch and given a mayonnaise, in place of the boiled mutton and rice pudding which was ordinarily her portion, after that she demanded mayonnaise every day for a week. Paris could certainly provide things which were good to eat.

One of her recollections at this time was having the Prince Imperial, who was driving in an open carriage, pointed out to her by her father who told her that one day he would be Emperor. She happened also to be in Paris when the news arrived that he had been slain by savages in South Africa, when his photograph surrounded by violets, the flower of the Napoleon dynasty, was sold in the streets.

Amongst the most striking features of Paris were its vitality, and the vividness of its contemporary history. During the last 130 years Parisian life had been crammed with incidents, its history had been one long series of dramatic events. There was not a street but was reminiscent of the barricades, or had run with blood. Take the Madeline where the Versailles forced the Communists up the steps and slew everyone in the church. Paris was never lacking in interesting relics.

The barricades had always formed a feature of Parisian history. Their origin was interesting. It arose from the right which Parisians had to close the streets with chains.

For all who were interested in things which were intensely human Paris was full of charm.

Then again, for those who were artistically inclined there was no city which had so many masterpieces to show, and a great feature in their enjoyment was that they were seen in such beautiful settings. In our own National Portrait Gallery we had beautiful paintings, but their background was uninspiring. In Paris the portraits of celebrities were seen in the surroundings in which the originals had lived.

Then there was the Cluny Museum, where the wonderful collection of art treasures was

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