

## The Modern Nursing Movement in France.

When visiting a foreign country, shed national prejudices, habits, and customs, as far as possible, and go out and learn something. In this receptive frame of mind it is quite marvellous how much is to be found which is instructive and worthy of imitation.

### MADAME L'ECONOME.

The typical French woman is Madame L'Econome, and she is to be found in every class of life. Stand on your hotel steps in the early morning, and she will trip by you in great numbers, neatly dressed in black, with a trim waist, a large basket on her arm, and having in these days discarded the becoming spotless white cap she wore of yore, she now appears "in her hair," without hat or cap.

Madame L'Econome counts sous. She gets the best value for her money in early markets, and provides dainty nourishing diet from materials the thriftless Englishwoman would consign to the pig bucket. Madame L'Econome is ubiquitous—not only is she *femme de ménage* in millions of homes, but as she rises in the social scale you find her still counting her sous—at the bureau—behind the counter—in the kitchen—the linenry—the laundry—in great houses—presiding over important institutions—in fact, the dear lady is the bone and sinew of the French nation.

A very brilliant person is Madame L'Econome. Would that she could be imported to preside over the destinies of our hospital kitchens, and teach us some consideration for our unfortunate digestions. We should be a happier and more agreeable people.

After which digression you will not be surprised to learn that the mother instinct in the French woman, which is the strongest instinct she has, and which for centuries has found scope for the unmarried in the care of the poor, the sick, the aged, and the mad, in conventual institutions, has of late, owing to a more liberal education, prompted her to take her part in the great social revolution—outside the convent gates—and that the laicisation of the nursing of the sick is rapidly becoming a question of vital interest to those who realise that there is neither sect nor sex in nursing.

### A NURSING PIONEER.

One woman stands out in Paris as a pioneer of nursing reform—Mme. Alphen Salvador—brilliant, cultured, rich, she founded seven years ago the Association for the Development of Assistance to the Sick, a scheme which includes the training of lay educated ladies in private hospitals (all the large hospitals in

France are civil institutions, under the management of the Assistance Publique), providing a Central Home and Professional School for them in a charming old house in the Rue Amyot, where they receive theoretical instruction from the leading Professors in Paris. The pupils gain their practical experience in the Hospital Alphen Salvador, which is attached to the School, and in other private hospitals, their *Programme des Cours* is most comprehensive, including Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Dispensing, Massage, Minor Surgery, the Care of Children, Care of Lying In Women and the Newly Born, Nerve and Skin Diseases, and Professional Duty. They are also given a Moral Course, under which heading the very first professors in Paris place the result of their splendid mentality at the disposal of the class of young women attached to the school. Here are a few of the subjects: Social Justice, The Conquest of Self, The Reason, The Individual Conscience, and Social Duty.

One day Madame Alphen Salvador whisked us away in her pale blue automobile to the Rue Amyot, and showed us the practical result of her pioneer work. We were immensely interested—in the lecture room with its maps and models—the neat little dispensary—the comfortable hospital—in the pupils and nurses in their pink and white uniforms, each of whom has a single bedroom, which she trims up as she chooses. We had tea with the nurses in the pretty little salon, opening on to the inner court, during which a charming girl, in her blue and white outdoor uniform, flashed in upon us, and enveloped Miss Stewart in her arms. She had been trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is now on the private nursing staff of the Rue Amyot, doing first-rate work in Paris. This little incident, so spontaneous and French, made us all realise the force of internationalism, and the oneness of the Nursing Sisterhood. It is at this interesting School that Madame Alphen Salvador will receive the members of the Conference in June, and we feel sure they will rejoice with her at the progress and success her movement has made in Paris. Others, encouraged by her initiative, are now following her example. Thus from the acorn springs the leafy oak!

### THE PASTEUR HOSPITAL.

Time or no time, one thing we were determined to see during our busy days in Paris, and that was the Hospital of the Pasteur Institute.

Upon arriving at the Rue Dutot, where the Institute of world-wide fame is situated, we were received by Dr. Martin, who, with the loveliest of "Mothers," young, elegant, *spirituelle*, kindly conducted us over the Pas-

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