

in elementary anatomy, physiology, hygiene general and special, pharmacy, therapeutics, preparation for operations, care of medical cases, care of surgical cases, care of special cases, maternity nursing, and elementary hospital administration; every subject is simply and clearly taught, and practically applied as far as possible at the bedside. Pupils are subjected to a series of examinations—the final examination for the certificate of the hospital taking place at the end of a two years' term of training.

The fame of this Nursing School is now far spread; it is visited by many interested in the nursing of the sick, and recognised as a model and example.

The nurses are very well cared for, and live in happy community. One evening I had the pleasure of meeting them socially in their pretty sitting-room. They were evidently very well educated girls of refined breeding, quite delightful was some of the music they made, two especially talented singing duets with great charm.

On the table were many nursing and other magazines, and in conversation one realised that they were encouraged to take an intelligent interest, not only in their own work, but the work of others.

Of course the coffee and cakes and other confections were very French and delicious.

Dr. Hamilton, anxious that the correct principles of nursing should be widely accepted, has written much and wisely on the subject, and *La Garde Malade Hospitalière*, now in its second year, a journal for nurses, and published at Bordeaux, owes much to her co-operation and pen. This journal is thoroughly professional in tone. The editorial committee is entirely composed of *Directrices*, and I was glad to learn that its success had been instant and phenomenal, its circulation far exceeding the anticipations of its founders.

Dr. Hamilton, who is the Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses in France, will take part in the coming Conference at Paris. She will contribute a paper on the Training Schools for Nurses at Bordeaux, and also a report on *La Garde Malade Hospitalière* in the History of the Professional Nursing Press.

Nurses from every land will, I feel sure, anticipate with sincere pleasure making the personal acquaintance of so eminent a woman and colleague, for no nurse can fail to realise how much she has done to prove how noble their work can be, and how useful to humanity, or to appreciate the splendid initiative of her own untiring labours for the welfare of the sick.

E.G.F.

The Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE LAST GASP.

The Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, summoned by order of H.R.H. the President, to consider the question of granting a Diploma in Nursing, was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Friday, April 12th.

PHYSICAL FORCE IN EVIDENCE.

From the preparations made it might have been imagined that the hon. officers anticipated a crowded meeting, and possibly even an incursion of suffragettes. Additional chairs were hastily brought in—chairs which stood in empty rows to the end of the meeting. There were murmurs also of "last year's rowdy meeting," and a burly commissionaire at the door, who rigorously questioned all comers, appeared competent to play the part of "chucker out" should any member be so unwise as to offend the potentates on the platform. The elaborate precautions were quite unnecessary, the bomb which the hon. officers, who were plainly excited, imagined they were throwing, scarcely caused a ripple on the stagnant waters of the Association. When the little clique of medical men who dominate the R.B.N.A., who were unsupported by any of their medical colleagues, and who had assembled previously in another room, filed on to the platform, Sir James Crichton Browne took the chair, with Dr. Bezly Thorne and Dr. Comyns Berkeley on his right hand, and Dr. Godson and Mrs. Coster on his left. Dr. Outterson Wood was in the audience, and Mr. Langton arrived very late.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman read a telegram from Dr. Biernacki, stating his inability to be present owing to an attack of influenza, and saying that he trusted that the question of fever training would be considered.

Sir James Crichton Browne said that the meeting had been called to consider the recommendation of the Council, "That the Association do grant Diplomas after examination." He hastened to assure the audience that he had come there with an open mind, not having taken part in the previous proceedings, in regard to this question. He was interested in the subject, which was part of the original scheme of the Association, but "various circumstances" had delayed its being carried into effect. He went on to say that the scheme had been submitted to very eminent counsel, whose opinion was that it was certainly within the powers of the Charter for the Association to carry out.

A SIGNIFICANT SILENCE.

Sir James then invited expressions of opinions on the proposal. He turned to his medical supporters, but they shook their heads. An appeal to the nurse members met with stony and prolonged silence. Dr. Thorne then came to the rescue, and said that as no one seemed inclined to speak, he would give his opinion that a lady who submitted herself to the severe test of a three years' train-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)