

which nurses had been called together to participate in a movement of this kind.

France was never the last where questions of devotion to duty were concerned, and it had traditions of noble work accomplished by the nursing profession in France, but even in the most brilliant histories there are moments of eclipse. Now it seemed that the sun was about to reappear from behind the clouds, and to revive French nurses with the warmth of his rays.

Mlle. Chaptal referred to Mme. Salvador as the one who had been the first in Paris to restore the nurse to that place in the social scale to which she had the right.

The Home School, with which her paper dealt, was founded in 1904 by Mme. Taine, whose illustrious name was honoured by all. Profoundly impressed by the idea that the care of the sick was being more and more abandoned by the right class of French women, Mme. Taine was led to ask herself if this deviation from the path of duty had its origin in a misunderstanding. It had for a long time been considered in France that the position of an ordinary nurse was that of an inferior, and that, in order to supervise a ward, or to nurse the sick in private families, it was necessary to wear the garb of a nun. Consequently it was necessary to restore to its rightful dignity the name of nurse. It was this problem which the Home School set itself to solve.

In an interesting account of the course passed through by the pupils of the School in the wards of hospitals, Mlle. Chaptal showed how a "monitrice" attached to the School follows the pupils through their various stages, puts them "au courant," and inspects their work, always working in accordance with the doctors and sisters of the wards. Lectures are also given once a week on general ethics.

Mlle. Chaptal concluded by hoping that the cordial understanding evidenced by the Conference might continue to grow and extend for the greater benefit of the poor, the suffering, the infirm.

THE EARLY TEACHING OF NURSES AT THE SALPÊTRIÈRE.

By MME. P. GILLOT.

Mme. Gillot described in her paper the early teaching of nurses at the Salpêtrière. Fifteen years ago, the staff was composed of two distinct elements. The first young girls from the provinces, mostly Bretons. The other members of families who for successive generations had been employed in the establishment, and became so much attached to it that they refused all preferment rather than leave it.

In 1835 a preparatory school for the ward maids, which was closed 10 years later, was first established in the hospital. In 1878, when it was decided to start a Training School for Nurses, the greater part of the staff were found incapable of following the lectures with profit. The Primary School was then re-started with 60 pupils. This

primary instruction has been made a preparatory course for professional teaching.

Mme. Gillot then discussed the possibilities of the new College at the Salpêtrière, and urged that it should be organised on the lines of training schools for teachers.

2. That a Directrice should have the sole responsibility and management.

3. That in addition to lectures on the theory and practice of nursing, lectures on ethical subjects should also be given by the Directrice.

4. That pupils should be admitted on the English system on the advice of the Directrice after strict inquiry as to their moral character.

THE ORGANISATION OF PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS.

By DR. LANDE.

Dr. Lande gave a brief summary of the different methods of hospital administration in the Provinces. English hospitals, he said, were mostly voluntary institutions, supported by the charitable public, possessing a self-governing Committee, giving elasticity as to rules as well as adaptability. In France hospitals were not submitted to uniform regulations. Paris had a special organisation of its own under the laws of January 10th, 1849. Lyons possessed endowed hospitals, and had no need to ask for assistance from the Municipality, while for other hospitals, such as those of Bordeaux, there is an Administrative Committee formed by a certain number of persons, chosen by the Préfet, or delegates of the Municipal Council, the first holding office for four years, the second according to the time their political party is in power. When there are several hospitals in a town, one of them is chosen to be the General Superintendent of them all.

The regulations of this administration were formed in December, 1899, taking the place of those of January 31st, 1840. In each hospital there is a *Directeur*, *Directeur-Econome*, *Econome-Depensier*, or *Surveillant-Général*, who controls all the details of the organisation of the institution. Then comes the Secretary, who takes notes at the meetings, prepares the budget, and has a consulting voice on the Committee. The *Receveur* is the financial agent of the Administration, and acts as accountant. The *Econome* or Steward is responsible for the provisions, furniture, etc.

Dr. Lande finds this system heavy and crippling, and that too much "red tape," is apt to retard the progress of science, and cause impecuniosity.

THE TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES AT BORDEAUX.

By DR. ANNA HAMILTON.

In giving a sketch of the methods employed at the two training schools in Bordeaux, i.e., that of the civil hospital of Tondu, and of the Protestant Hospital, Dr. Hamilton said that as it would be impossible to do so thoroughly, she had thought it advisable, therefore, to present

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