

to the members of the Conference a printed and illustrated report of their work, system, and methods.

But she wished to put before the Conference two strong points, which, to her mind, has been the cause of their success.

1st. The Training School was in the hospital itself, and constituted its nursing staff.

2nd. A woman was at the head of the school, and directed it.

This statement she said might seem superfluous to the majority of the members of this Conference. In fact, many of those Matrons present who are at the head of large training schools, where they have trained thousands of nurses, have started at the foot of the ladder as simple probationers. But, in France, the Matrons of the provincial civil hospitals can still be counted on one's fingers, while Paris has not got a single one. It was with great pleasure that those working in France saluted all the Matrons of training schools. By their presence at this International Conference they proved that the method inaugurated in France and in Bordeaux was not an Utopian idea, but a simple adaptation of a recognised plan in other foreign countries, initiated by the pioneer of all nurses, the heroine of the Crimea, the revered Florence Nightingale.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE.

By DR. RIST,

Médecin des Hôpitaux de Paris.

Dr. Rist said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—You have already heard the greatest authorities on the nursing question in France tell us of what has been done, both privately and by the Government in the way of creating and organising the profession of nursing in France. It now remains for me to say what remains to be done. Do not ask me to do so. Unfortunately, the facts stare us in the face, and they are both innumerable and considerable. We know we need to reform and reorganise our system, that in London things are different; there is no need for us to be servile in copying other nations, but rather let us follow their example in the efforts they have made to make themselves perfect in the methods best suited to their own country. Let us do the same, adapting the progressive movement to the qualities of our own nation, experience alone can show how. He then spoke of the French doctors, who went to England, Switzerland, and Germany, and saw what was done in their hospitals, admired and extolled it, and returned to France, and said "We cannot do the same!" Why not? Why can they not set to work and help M. Mesureur in his work. Some of them were even unconscious of the fact that he has built a college for nurses at the Salpêtrière! Then, again, all those who were at the head of training schools ought to be loyal in their valuation of the work each other has done, and ought to form a Council to discuss these important questions, and consider the great cause they

had before them, and by giving a practical object lesson in France, unite themselves in supporting M. Mesureur. This was the burning question of to-day and to-morrow.

Discussion.

OPENED BY DR. LETULLE.

Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris.

Dr. Letulle's very clever speech in opening the discussion, being an "improvisation," we can only give a resumé of it. The chief points were these:

1st. Answering Dr. Bourneville's paper on laicisation, Dr. Letulle said that was a very old story, "prehistoric," he said pleasantly; and that now few people cared whether nurses were *laïcs* or not, as long as they were good professionally.

2nd. About the training which they were to get, Dr. Letulle thinks it ought to be chiefly practical, without excluding theoretical teaching, but that theory being limited to the nurse's profession, and not extended to subjects meant for a medical student, the experience of a nurse ought to be had beside the patient's bed, and to be as varied and extended as possible. Amongst the matters taught, professional and personal hygiene should have a very important place, and that has been often lacking in the French training for some years.

3rd. That, if the Paris Assistance Publique wants to raise the social level of the nurse in the hospitals, those nurses must be well paid, well fed, well housed, either in separate rooms or in cubicles, and that is beginning to be done, but money is needed to go on with the reform in that direction. The nurse must have to work only for the patient himself, and what concerns him, and not to scrub the floors (except to learn how that is to be done). This ought to be men's work; men are good enough for that, added Dr. Letulle, with a touch of humour.

4th. In France there was no proper word for Nurse; that is, the proper word, *Infirmière*, has been so long taken in a low sense, on account of the hard work nurses had to do in the hospitals, that it ought to be set right again. But, if the function is raised to what it ought to be, if the level is raised to its proper height, the name of *infirmière* will be raised, too.

5th. Dr. Letulle concluded, saying how much he had felt during all the years he has been in the Assistance Publique's service, where he is still, the want of good, thoroughly trained, nurses for his patients. He hopes and trusts that in the near future, things are to be improved, through the efforts of all interested in the profession.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18th.

On Tuesday afternoon the President of Session was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick who, in introducing the first speaker, Miss M. Adelaide

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