

The Reception at the Salpêtrière.

Of all the many functions connected with the Conference, the Reception at the Salpêtrière by M. Mesureur, Director-General of the Assistance Publique, was the most impressive and the most remarkable. The delightful picture on this page, which formed part of the invitation card sent by M. Mesureur will give an idea of the dignity and beauty of this unique hospital. It was this view which presented itself to the guests on their arrival, and under the trees, enjoying the sunshine, the unwonted sight of so many visitors, and the gay music charmingly rendered by the Band of the 76th Regiment of Infantry, were the patients in their picturesque costumes, and the nurses in gala dress.

No hospital could have been selected by the Director-General which could have given the Conference so much pleasure to visit. Is it not here that the new Nursing College has just been completed owing to the energy and foresight of this official? It was surely a happy augury that one of the first functions to take place there, in the fine lecture hall, should be this reception of the nurses of all nations who were visiting Paris, to express their goodwill to the French nation in its efforts to raise to a higher plane the nursing of the sick in France.

Tier upon tier the seats were crammed to their utmost capacity. The French surveillantes and infirmières in their "costumes de ceremonie" who had originally taken the side seats, leaving the best for the visitors, vacated them altogether and stood in doorways and gangways, anywhere where there was standing room, while late visitors surveyed the brilliant scene from a gallery.

It was a supreme moment when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and M. Mesureur entered the crowded hall, and Mrs. Fenwick took the chair, M. Voisin being placed on her right hand, and M. Mesureur on her left. M. Montreuil, Director of the Salpêtrière, and other distinguished members of the Assistance Publique, the Directors of all the Paris Hospitals and Infirmaries, Madame Alphen Salvador, Miss Isla Stewart, and Mlle. Chaptal were also seated facing the audience, or stood in a group behind the Director-General. The first speaker was the Director of the Hospital, M. Montreuil.

M. MONTREUIL.

M. Montreuil said:

Ladies,— M. Mesureur, the Director of the Assistance Publique has done me the great honour and pleasure of choosing my Institution from amongst so many others to receive you. I thank him for it.

I have not forgotten the courteous and cordial reception which I received when I visited the London Hospitals, so that I am particularly happy at having the opportunity of placing myself at your service.

This ancient house of the Salpêtrière not only possesses all the traditions of history, which meet you at every turn, but it is at the present moment the largest establishment in the world, as it contains 6,000 souls, and moreover, it is within these walls, blackened with age, and these antiquated courts that there rises to-day the Modern School of Nursing, from which the nurse of the future will go out.

If I were to give way to my feelings, I would entertain you for hours with the history of these immense buildings, which have seen in turn the majestic shadow of Louis XIV. and the rough garb of St. Vincent de Paul, the powdered wig of M. de la Motté, and the Carmelite robe of Theroigne de Mericourt; but your time is precious, and I only want to speak to you for a few moments of the nurses of the Salpêtrière.

The history of the nursing staff of this Hospice is, in fact, most interesting, for you are here,



THE SALPÊTRIERE.

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