

Ladies, in the first Parisian establishment in which the nursing has always been secular. This is how it came about. When Louis XIV. decided on the creation of the General Hospital, he turned to St. Vincent de Paul, who was a great organiser, and already very popular, and asked him to give him some of his Sisters, but this the Saint refused to do, saying that it would take 800 of them, and that they could not have this company of Sisters without a Sister Superior at the head of them, and that they would become such a power that they would be able to resist the King himself. That was the reason why St. Vincent de Paul himself placed a secular staff in the Salpêtrière, and which has never altered.

The example of Miss Nightingale in England, whose great name one can but pronounce with respect, was copied by Dr. Bourneville, who started the first course of lectures here, which met with such success that they have been instituted in several other hospitals. It is doubtless this glorious past which decided M. Mesureur to choose this place as the seat of the first training school.

You will soon go over this building, and I am proud to think that it contains much that is instructive. Ladies, I thank you for having come in such great numbers, and I hope that you will carry away with you the same lasting recollections as those which I have of my visit to London.

M. VOISIN.

The next speaker was M. Voisin, who said:

I feel honoured that M. Mesureur has chosen me to speak to you after M. Montreuil. What I have to say is little, for I have already expressed to you my thoughts and feelings. But I wish to thank this lady who has undertaken the organisation of this wonderful Congress, from which I hope much good will come. I wish to tell you how well I understand that your work is one of love. For twenty years I have worked in the Assistance Publique, of which I am proud. We help and assist the poor, and we nurse the sick. I can answer for the infirmières, that they understand you in your work amongst suffering humanity. It is only a woman who can do it. You have my best wishes for the future.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick who, on rising to speak, was evidently deeply moved by the solemnity of the occasion, said:

Would that I could address you in the beautiful language of France, and thus adequately express to M. Mesureur and the Assistance Publique, and to the ladies and gentlemen who have welcomed us here, the thanks of the International Council of Nurses, for their generous support, which has made it possible to hold our Conference in Paris, and has ensured its success. Without the personal interest of M. Mesureur and the Municipal Department of which he is Director, such success would have been impossible.

It is specially gratifying to the nurses of all nations to come here to-day to meet their colleagues, the surveillantes and infirmières of the

Salpêtrière Hospital, which has a record of centuries of splendid work for the sick, the old, the deficient, and the insane. It is, indeed, the greatest pleasure to us to have this opportunity of meeting our French fellow workers in this historic hospital, and to see the beautiful school which they are shortly to occupy. I beg once more to convey to you, ladies and gentlemen, the most heartfelt thanks of the members of this Conference for your kindness and courtesy.

M. G. MESUREUR.

M. Mesureur said:

Madam President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Both M. Voisin and myself are deeply touched at the beautiful and kind words your President has addressed to us. We are touched at the keynote of sympathy which has arisen between the members of the Congress and those of the Assistance Publique.

During these last few days you have been received at two different private training schools, in the beautiful Hotel de Ville, where you were fêted as you deserve. To-day we ask you to come here, and see our future Training School and Nurses' Home, and to meet your colleagues. I have also asked all the directors of the hospitals and infirmaries of Paris to meet you and express their good wishes and show you the keen interest they feel in your movement.

There is not a single establishment of the Assistance Publique which remains indifferent to your visit, and these Directors will support me when, in the name of them all, I give you a cordial greeting and tell you of their secret hope that some amongst you will also visit their establishments and learn with what devotion they care for the sick.

Our "Assistance" resembles no other organisation in the world. We are a kind of kingdom of our own. The staff are soldiers who receive and obey orders, without asking any questions. There are 5,000 surveillantes and nurses, and these women are proud to think of the interest you take in them and their work, and of the moral support you have given them. In this Home there are to be 150 nurses; each will have her own room, spoken of by other countries as so necessary to the maintenance of womanly dignity and moral independence. Each will receive her training in the wards of the Salpêtrière. At present this School is still unoccupied, but we hope that in October they will bring all their best qualities with them. We hope to have a high standard, and at the same time I hope that all the young girls will remain pure and modest, and that in the future we will be able to send them to the Congresses to take their places beside you.

At the conclusion of the speeches, M. Mesureur conducted Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to the fine Refectory, where the tables were laden with delicious dainties. Here the members of the Conference had the pleasure of meeting their French colleagues, and though often unable to converse with one another the electric bond of sympathy was evident.

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