

INTERESTING DEPARTMENTS.

After the visitors had done full justice to the hospitality of the Assistance Publique, and had inspected the beautiful Home, some of the members were taken about in the gardens and the wards of the very ancient hospital, that numbers 5,000 inhabitants. The memory of Dr. Charcot is cherished religiously, and, in a secluded part of the hospital, above the wards that were Charcot's field of work for so many years, his complete library has been brought, thanks to M. André Mesureur, who asked for the privilege of placing it there at his death. So, in a low red-tiled room, all Charcot's books and manuscripts are kept as sacred relics, together with the ancient wainscotting and furniture with which his library was furnished in his own house. Every single thing has been brought, which belonged to this room, even to the engravings on the wall, one of these representing curious fancy drawings of fantastic beings which the doctor drew under the influence of hasheesh, when he had intoxicated himself with that drug for the sake of experimental science. This very interesting visit was followed by one to a few of the wards where nervous illnesses are nursed under the care of experienced "surveillantes," and also saw the chapel, built by Louis XIV. This chapel, which is used not only on Sundays, but on week days also for the benefit of the patients and old people housed in the "hospice," is of a curious design, and consists of five aisles, surrounding the central altar, set so that the occupants of each aisle are separated from the others. This form was chosen in order to separate the different kinds of pensioners of the old Hospital.

The western part of the Hospice's grounds are being covered with buildings, now in course of erection, forming a new and quite up-to-date general hospital, where, two years' hence, the pupils of the new School of Salpêtrière will receive their practical training, and learn the responsibilities of their profession.

An interesting department of the hospital is that comprising the kitchens which open directly, without corridor, into the "Rue de Cuisine." They are spacious and light, and have been planned in a fashion to save all extra labour. The utensils are all of well polished copper, and to fill these on the stove it is only necessary to turn on water from one of the moveable arms fixed at either corner of the large centre stove. The milk is sterilised in two large boilers, whilst a kitchen with six fixed coppers is set aside for the "bouillon gras." There are two colossal carved dressers of great antiquity, but a charming lack of extraneous furniture obtains. The kitchen staff consists of 15 men and five women. The laundries, of which there are two, and in which no less than 200 hands are employed, strike one as being of unusual dimensions. A woman is placed at the head of both laundry and kitchen.

M.B.

The Banquet.

The Banquet at the Hotel Continental, Rue de Rivoli, on the evening of Thursday, June 20th, is an event which will not soon be forgotten by those who took part in it.

The guests numbered 140, and included M. Lamprie, representing the Municipal Council of Paris, M. G. Mesureur, Directeur Général, Assistance Publique, and M. Felix Voisin, Président de Conseil de Surveillance, who were the guests of the International Council of Nurses. The other members of the Assistance Publique, who attended in their official capacity were M. André Mesureur, Chef du Cabinet, M. E. Thilloz, Secrétaire Général, M. Montreuil, Directeur de l'Hospice de la Salpêtrière, and Mme. Brochard, Surveillante de l'Hôpital Saint Antoine (Legion of Honour). It is quite impossible to mention the distinguished guests of many nationalities who assembled in the reception room. Here a pleasant little ceremony took place, when Sister Agnes Karll, in the name of the members of the Conference, presented a bouquet of pink carnations and other beautiful flowers to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, thanking her in cordial language for all her work for nurses. Mrs. Fenwick expressed her pleasure at receiving the lovely bouquet.

There is generally a crumpled rose leaf in every bed of roses, and to the great regret of all present, Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, was unable to be present owing to her recent acute illness. A beautiful bouquet of pure white roses was, however, sent to her with the warm good wishes of the members of the Conference.

Some of the members also presented to Miss Breay a beautiful leather case in which to keep the many papers with which she is generally loaded. The gift was made by Miss Mary Burr, Secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, and was gratefully acknowledged by Miss Breay.

The absence of Miss Isla Stewart, whose genial presence on such occasions is greatly appreciated, was very much regretted. Miss Stewart was compelled by the call of duty to return to London by the night train, but, with characteristic thoughtfulness, sent a telegram from the station expressing every good wish for the success of the Banquet.

The scene in the banquetting room was one of great brilliance. The chair was taken by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; on her right sat M. G. Mesureur, and on her left M. Lamprie. To the right and left of these gentlemen were Mme. Alphen Salvador and Sister Agnes Karll, supported by Mrs. Robb, Miss Maxwell,

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