

Miss Elston, Directrice of the Nursing School at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux, has accepted an invitation to preside at the annual general assembly of the Crèche of the Bastide, and recently the ladies of the committee visited the hospital to thank her for accepting this office. Under the guidance of Miss Elston and Dr. Lande, these ladies, twenty in number, visited the different wards, where they greatly admired the perfect cleanliness and order which prevailed everywhere. The grace of the nurses in their cheerful uniforms and the flowers on every table, gave the hospital a style of its own. The inhabitants of Bordeaux, says a local paper, have reason to be proud of this work, which is the first to be founded under administrative control in France, as that of the Protestant Hospital was the first of a private kind.

At the conclusion of this educative visit, a photograph of all the ladies of Committee of the Crèche, and the nurses of the hospital, was taken.

The January numbers of *Nosokomos*, the Dutch nursing paper, are full of personal interest. One has a long account of the thrilling "Middelburg question." Some points read curiously to English Nurses, some are familiar. For Sister I write Nurse, as the former title is given to every Nurse in Holland.

Nurse S., who had been working for about two years in the Hospital, was, for some slight fault, ordered by the Director, as a punishment, to do three weeks' service in the kitchen. The Nurse, who did not agree with the punishment, gave three months' notice, which was at first accepted, but the Director, Dr. B., having consulted the Directress, recalled her, ordered her to pack her boxes, take three months' salary, and depart. To this the Nurse also objected, as she wished to "resign with honour," and not be turned out of the place. Seven of her colleagues then sent a round robin to the Committee, asking that their comrade might stay her three months, or else they also would give three months' notice. Thereupon a printed form was sent round to all the Directors and Directresses (Medical Superintendents and Matrons) of the Dutch hospitals, begging them not to receive the probationers, A, B, C, D, etc., without communicating with the signatories, therefore practically placing them on a black list. The editor of *Nosokomos* writes indignantly against this inquisitorial proceeding and very properly expresses her sorrow that the Director in question is a patron of *Nosokomos*. But the point that will strike an English Nurse is

the "punishment." Imagine an English Matron summoning a probationer who had been rude to a Sister and informing her that, as a punishment, she would have to spend a week in the laundry at the calender, or a fortnight in the scullery helping to wash up!

Another letter anent a difficulty from which we in England are (and thankful may we be) free, treats of the question of male nurses in male wards. The letter, by a male nurse, is highly acrimonious, he is very bitter against the "sisters," and against a doctor who prefers them to the "brothers"; but it is curious to us to hear even the doctor admit that some male Nurses are a necessity in a male ward. The writer thinks that men should always be nursed by men, and women entirely banished from the "male department." We are so accustomed in English civil hospitals to female Nurses in all the male wards that the objections and arguments of the irate Dutch brother sound strange and unnatural to us, since we know that they are largely imaginary.

A correspondent from the United States writes:—

"Have you noticed that Boston has established a Central Home for the special training of district nurses, on the plan of your English district nursing homes? The only weak thing about it is that they take both graduate and pupil nurses for the special training, but at least it is a step in the right direction.

Miss Hitchcock, who is at the head of the nursing at the Nurses' Settlement, New York, has practically systematised her whole field so that this central house is really a training home for the district nursing. All new members are taken there first, and go through a regular set of stages in the service for at least six months before being placed in the outlying districts or in other settlements where they must necessarily work under less constant supervision than they have there. Needless to say that no nurse is taken on at the Nurses' Settlement until she has had her full hospital training.

Miss Nutting and Miss Dock are collecting the most bewitching illustrations for their History on Nursing, they fear when it is finished they will all go to the Poor House, Putnam's included."

We have had a peep at some of the M.S. of this most important work, and can promise trained nurses a great intellectual treat when it appears in May. Every Nurses' Library will eagerly include copies, no doubt, amongst its greatest treasures. It is hoped to have this great work ready in time for the Paris Conference. No doubt it will soon be translated into French and German.

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