

service is in full activity, but he began, alone, and in the face of great hostility, inspired by a belief in democracy and holding the view that education should be free and universal.

When we remember that, at the outset (and to a certain extent even yet) the hospital nurses had first to be taught to read and write; that there was not a Matron in any hospital; that the classes were not compulsory, and that to attend them, many pupils had to go from one hospital to another, in hours torn with difficulty from hard work, I do not know how we can sufficiently admire either his persistency, or theirs.

I think it is interesting to note that Dr. Bourneville early established the principle that nursing should be taught by nurses; for, from the time when the service first afforded able *surveillantes*, all classes and demonstrations in practical ward work, including the administration of medicines, have been conducted by them, by nurses, and these courses of teaching have been, I believe, the only ones which have never been criticised as being too academic. This seems to me to be a feature of the schools for nurses established by Dr. Bourneville, which has been almost entirely overlooked, but which is of great importance, and for which he deserves full recognition. Little by little the long patient effort to teach, hampered as it was by conditions beyond the control of any one man, and arising from the difficulties of administration in these vast establishments, has had encouraging results in many directions. Both Miss Nutting and I, in going about the hospitals, were impressed with the quiet ability, practical knowledge, and executive capacity of many of the *surveillantes*. We also saw great promise in many of the probationers. Our hearts did ache, though, to see all of these hundreds of young women with no Matron's watchful care over them. I have a very tender spot for these cheerful, ready, hardworking, and willing *infirmières*. They certainly have the spirit of devotion, though all undisciplined.

In the absence of a Matron, Dr. Bourneville has consistently advocated reforms in the hospital routine, and in the conditions of living for the nurses. For years he has urged rotation in the wards for the pupil nurses (this has never yet been attained, and makes co-ordination between practical teaching and lectures impossible), making the teaching compulsory, placing only older and experienced women on night duty, giving the nurses better food, single rooms, pleasant quarters, sitting rooms, libraries, museums of nursing appliances and appurtenances.

After thirty years' persistent demands, now today the Administration, under the enlightened direction of M. Mesureur, is bringing many of these things to pass. This winter the night duty will be improved. Already many reforms have been made in food and quarters, and now the splendid new School is nearly ready, with its single rooms, amphitheatre, and nursing museum; but, best of all, it will have a Matron in full charge of the pupils, subject only to the administrative authority of M. Montreuil, who is the

most liberal of all the directors on the question of giving authority to women. Thus the fortunate pupils of the new school will have, not only teaching (which is so important), but also that indefinable thing which we call training, which no physician at all, no man at all, but only a Matron, can give, and of which so perfect a demonstration has been given to the Administration by the private schools of Rue Amyot and Rue Vercingetorix. Prominent in the new teaching is to be a series of talks on "Morals, Social and Professional." This word "Morals," one need hardly say, is not to be interpreted in a narrow sense, but rather as Ethics.

L. L. DOCK.

A Hygienic Exhibition.

A Hygienic Exhibition will be held in Berlin in September, in connection with the fourteenth International Congress of Hygiene. Professor Rudner is the President.

Bovril Bonus Pictures.

We are surprised to find that many nurses are not aware of the very valuable presents which the Bovril Company makes to those who collect the coupons given with Bovril preparations. These presents take the form of most artistic pictures painted originally by well-known artists, and most excellently engraved. The following are the subjects of the pictures already issued: The Relief of Ladysmith, showing the historical entry of the British troops into the sorely beleaguered town; The Return of Lord Kitchener, by Mr. William Heatherall, showing the welcome given to Lord Kitchener on his return from South Africa, and his reception by the Prince of Wales at Victoria Station; The Leopard's Skin, by Mr. J. Snowman, showing four small children looking with curiosity or alarm, according to their age, at a very realistic Leopard's head on a fireplace rug; The Little Lady Bountiful, by Mr. Fred Morgan, a beautiful little child, one of a picnic party, giving a plate of good things to two little beggar children; The Home of the Swans, which we have not had the pleasure of seeing; and the Tempting Bait, by Mr. Arthur J. Elsley, a group of children, of which the small boy is holding out a tempting looking apple to a very diffident Shetland pony, who evidently suspects the reason for the bridle and bit which the boy is holding behind his back. Four of these pictures, by the way, presented by Members, adorn the Board Room of the Registered Nurses' Society, where they always arouse interest and admiration at the various meetings and At Homes which are held there.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)