

under two years; in the meantime they will go to the other hospitals for training.

L. L. Dock.

#### THE SURVEILLANTE GENERALE OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

Those who visited the new Nursing College of the Salpêtrière Hospital at Paris this year know how much its future success in raising the standard of nursing depends upon the lady appointed as *Surveillante Générale*. In the selection of an officer for this important position many things have to be considered. Every nurse knows how much good discipline, and the maintenance of a high ethical standard count in the efficiency of a training school, and it is thus of the utmost importance that the lady appointed should possess good administrative and executive ability. We must remember that in this country, when nursing was in a transitional condition, the women who transformed our nursing schools and secured the introduction of higher standards of training had themselves often only had a nursing education which we should now regard as insufficient, but they grasped the essential principles of training. What these are has been laid down by Miss Nightingale as follows:—

“Training is to teach a nurse to know her business, that is, to observe exactly, to understand, to know exactly, to do, to tell exactly, in such stupendous issues as life and death, health, and disease. Training is to enable the nurse to act for the best in carrying out her orders, not as a machine, but as a nurse; not like Cornelius Agrippa's broomstick which went on carrying water, but like an intelligent, responsible being. Training has to make her not servile, but loyal to medical orders and authorities. True loyalty to orders cannot be without the independent sense or energy of responsibility which alone secures real trustworthiness.

“And discipline is the essence of training. . . . It is education, instruction, training, all that in fact goes to the full development of our faculties, moral, physical, and spiritual.”

All this has to be taken into consideration, and M. Mesureur, Director of the Assistance Publique in Paris, has decided to appoint for a year to the important office of *Surveillante Générale* of the Salpêtrière, Mlle. Hénault, the *Directrice* of the *École de la Maternité*, a School for Midwives, where, under her management, a very high standard has been maintained. She has proved herself possessed of the personality and the executive ability essential in the direction of a Training School, and is regarded as a

model Directrice, and it is his appreciation of these qualities which has led M. Mesureur to ask her to take the position of *Surveillante Générale* of the new Nursing School at the historic Salpêtrière Hospital. Mlle. Hénault well understands the needs of the Assistance Publique and all that is hoped for of the new school. We congratulate her on her selection for this important and honourable position, and can assure her that her work will be followed with interest and sympathy by British nurses, who realise how much its success means to the evolution of nursing, and consequently to the welfare of the sick.

Mlle. Duconseil, as will be seen from Miss Dock's letter, is now acting as Superintendent in residence.

#### CONFERENCES DE MORALE.

Mlle. L. Chaptal, at the request of M. Mesureur, has consented to give a course of lectures on the ethics of nursing throughout the experimental year. These *conferences de morale*, as they are called, will be twenty in number, and the course will begin next December. Mlle. Chaptal is thus one of the Professors of the new School; she is also a member of the Training School Committee, “*Conseil de Perfectionnement de l'École de la Salpêtrière*,” to give it its right name. She is the only woman on a Board of sixteen, but the courteous French gentlemen with whom she will work will no doubt find her advice of the utmost service.

#### The Cookery Exhibition.

The Cookery Exhibition which opened at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday last, is always very popular, and this year the standard of excellence is well maintained. We hope next week to publish the awards in connection with the Invalid Trays, which were made too late for insertion this week.

#### A New Nursing Journal.

At a very interesting function (a dinner organised by the Wellington Nurses' Association), about a hundred nurses and guests were present. At this dinner a proposition to have a Nursing Journal for New Zealand nurses was made, and was received with enthusiasm. If carried out it will do much to unite the interests of the nurses throughout the colony. We hope the nurses will keep their Journal and its profits in their own hands, and not lend themselves to exploitation by publishers and advertisers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)