

body, they can by kindness and sympathy assuage mental suffering, often sadder and more difficult to heal than physical suffering. And at times a simple remark made by one of the pupils proved to us that our words had been heard with attention, and had found an echo in the hearts of our listeners.

We must say that these good girls have left in our memory very good impressions; moreover, on consulting our notes, and those of our teachers, we do not find in the space of ten years one act of insubordination, or one serious complaint. The only remarks which occur fairly often are: "a little frivolous" or "giddy," or "talked in class." This is nothing to speak of, and only to be expected at the age of these young girls, who, in taking their places on the school forms, find again the faults of their youth. On the contrary, we cannot but admire the courage of these brave girls who, at the close of a day given entirely to a hard and sometimes repugnant labour, still find themselves able to spend two hours in serious work, which is laborious for all, and difficult to many.

Several years have passed since the period of which we have just spoken, and the silent little town of Salpêtrière has undergone many transformations. It still possesses its majestic buildings, but at the side of them new premises have sprung up. The beautiful gardens and shady avenues of old trees are still to be seen, though it has been found necessary to do away with certain of the gardens, to reduce the length of several of the avenues, and to sacrifice some of the trees. In the middle of the ground was found formerly an enclosure, which was known by the picturesque name of "the meadow." It no longer exists, and in its place has arisen the new school for nurses, constructed, as we are told, with all the comfort and all the advantages of modern buildings.

What will this new school do? What pupils will it receive? What will be the value of its nurses? How will they be trained? These questions have already caused much ink to flow, and raised many controversies. It seems to us that the answer to these three questions is very simple, and may be thus expressed.

The new institution being entirely in the hands of the Administration will be exactly what the Administration will make it. The School that has just been founded at Salpêtrière being "a public institution designed to train nurses for the hospitals" will be for the nurses the same thing as a training college is for teachers. So to assure the good working of this school should we not do well to follow the methods of the training colleges for

teachers, which have been working for so long and with such good results?

In both institutions the work is theoretical and practical. For the teachers the lessons in theory are given by special professors; for the nurses they will be given by members of the medical profession. The practical teaching is given for the teachers in the primary schools belonging to the training college, for the nurses it will be given in the hospitals.

Thus the regulations in both cases necessitate the pupils being boarders. (We know that at Salpêtrière a few day pupils are taken, but only as exceptions.)

At the head of all training colleges is found a directress who assures the order and discipline of the house; she takes also all responsibility, and all authority is in her hands. We wish that this was the case at Salpêtrière. That there was a Directress solely responsible for the good order and the discipline of the school, and possessing alone the necessary authority to rule in the house. A divided authority has never given, and never will give, any good result.

Besides her administrative functions, the Directress of the Training School is charged to give to the pupils a course of lectures on morals. We wish that it was so at the Nursing School, that a course of lectures on morals could be instituted and given by the Directress.

We have cast our eye over the programme of the studies; we find there lectures on theory given by doctors, and practical teaching given in the wards by the "Sisters," and that is all! We strongly regret this omission of moral teaching, for if there is a profession in which it is necessary to make appeal to generous and devoted sentiments, and to awaken them where they exist, it is in this profession of nursing. Without doubt there are among the young girls of our hospitals those with good and brave hearts, who give to the unfortunate and suffering those two most precious gifts, youth and health. But something else is needed besides the impulse which leads them to give themselves to this work. We would wish to develop in them a firm and dependable spirit, which will exercise itself unceasingly and by a determined act of the will towards all. To the irritable and exacting patient, to the old, embittered by age and infirmities, to the child who asks only for its mother and recoils from the nurse without understanding anything of the care she wishes to give!

And then it has been said, and we repeat it modifying only some expressions. The training school must not only be a school of instruction, it must be also a school of educa-

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