

debted for training her successor, Miss Melrose. The present and past visiting staff had shown their appreciation of Mrs. Strong by presenting her with a silver tea service and a cheque for £100.

We are glad to note that the Belfast Board of Guardians have adopted the Infirmary Committee's carefully considered scheme for improving the education of their nurses, and in consequence the quality of the nursing of the patients. The scheme provides that the period of training be four instead of three years, and that all probationers should be given practical training in the nursing of infectious fevers, consumption, and maternity cases, which cannot be done under existing rules. A great benefit will result, as in the fourth year the nurses will be able to perform the duties of assistant charge nurses if necessary, and thus provide thoroughly experienced nurses for the patients. The great evil of the two years' term of training is, that there is no time to qualify in nursing special diseases, and the patients are handled by pupils and not skilled nurses. The new scheme should be eagerly supported by Irishwomen desirous of obtaining a very thorough experience in nursing the sick.

It does not seem to signify how many books are written concerning the martyrdom of Marie Antoinette, each one which appears is of thrilling interest, and nothing could be more absorbing than the translation by Mrs. Rodolph Stawell of "The Last Days of Marie Antoinette," from the French of G. Lenotre.

Incidentally, we get a glimpse of the wife of Simon, the famous cobbler and unnatural monster, the moral murderer of "The Child of The Temple." From a note found among the *Papers Seized in Chaumette's House*, preserved in the National Archives, we learn "that a certain man, who had been wounded on the 10th August, and nursed in the Infirmary of the School of Medicine near The Cordeliers, where Simon's wife is known to have worked as a nurse, wrote to Chaumette to complain of the surgeon Lafiteau. The following passage is an extract from his letter:

"There may be some members of this assembly who know *Citoyenne* Simon. The woman I mean whose patriotic zeal and surgical knowledge have enabled her to cure a number of our brothers in arms, the brave Marseillais, who were wounded in the affair of August 10th. Well, this worthy woman has done for humanity what we all ought to do. I was present when she came, a month ago, to beg the *Sieur* Lafiteau's services for one of our

companions in arms who was lying in his bed a few yards away from the College of Surgery, and only required to be bled. The case was very urgent, but *Citizen* Lafiteau persistently refused to go with her, though *Citoyenne* Simon offered him a suitable fee. *Citoyenne* Simon was quite embarrassed by this reception of her request, and loaded with insults went off for another surgeon."

Let us hope that this sympathy for the starving poor may weigh in the balance against the horrible treatment later on of the child King of France by the husband of this woman.

The following touching story is also quoted: "Mme Guyot, head nurse of the Hospice de l'Archevêché, had formed a project for rescuing Marie Antoinette. To this end she had caused a request to be made, on the pretext of illness, for the removal of her Majesty to the hospital established in the Archbishop's Palace, where M. Ray, with the help of M. Giraud, the surgeon at the Hôtel Dieu, had already broken and wrenched away the bar of a window opening into a covered way that led to the Seine, in the direction of the Ile Saint-Louis. The barbarous Fouquier-Tinville, fearing lest his victim should escape him, would never consent to the transference. Then Mme. Guyot, in default of anything better, determined to brave every danger, and take to the unhappy Queen some of those absolute necessities of life of which she was altogether without. She contrived to make the acquaintance of the gaoler's wife; and having done so begged her to accept some light refreshment, and ended by bewildering her with some sherry. Forgetting her responsibilities, the woman fell asleep. Mme. Guyot then took to Marie Antoinette a white wrapper with trimming on it (this was the last dress worn by the Queen at her execution), and with it all the garments that were likely to be useful to her. The most careful search was made to discover the person who had dared to take these clothes to the Queen, but happily it was in vain. We who come after are glad to know it was a nurse.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death of Sister Hutchinson, who was trained at the Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottingham, and has been Ward Sister there for nearly four years. She died on January 3rd from enteric fever, contracted while devotedly discharging her duty. Her sad death has cast a gloom over the whole Infirmary where she was much respected and beloved. She was interred at Leicester on Monday, a large number of the Staff attending the funeral.

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