

everywhere as an "extra-staff."

Every "professor" in the new school at the Salpêtrière assumed as a general rule the standard of a hospital nurse, and no other branch of nursing. Dr. Bourneville's *Ecoles* receive every kind of student. In fact, we agree that different kinds of nursing require different systems of training. There might now be a terrible mistake if we tried at one and the same time to train hospital nurses and sisters, district nurses, private nurses, mothers desiring only to attend to their children, or the devoted women working among the poor, at home or in the numerous private dispensaries of Paris. A staff nurse has so many things to learn that we are of opinion all her time should be devoted to special work in the hospital ward, with hospital management, hospital appliances, according to the method of the medical staff.

The new system of treatment, the improved appliances, the scientific apparatus, i.e., in the operating room, X-rays, Finsen electric departments, require the nurses to be *specialised*. The latest system of nursing is divided into many special branches of nursing with different methods of training. If a staff nurse is put to district nursing, she will be overworked; she is not accustomed to it, and therefore she must be trained for such kind of nursing.

When we consider that Nursing is passing through the well-known stage in every department of science general nursing must give place to the new branches of nursing.

Such a method of training will guide Matrons and teachers at the Salpêtrière. Every endeavour will be directed towards the training of the hospital nurse with that special standard of education and technical instruction from our illustrious physicians and surgeons *des hôpitaux* that everyone requires. We trust in this way, that the course of training strictly directed to a fixed aim will be successful.

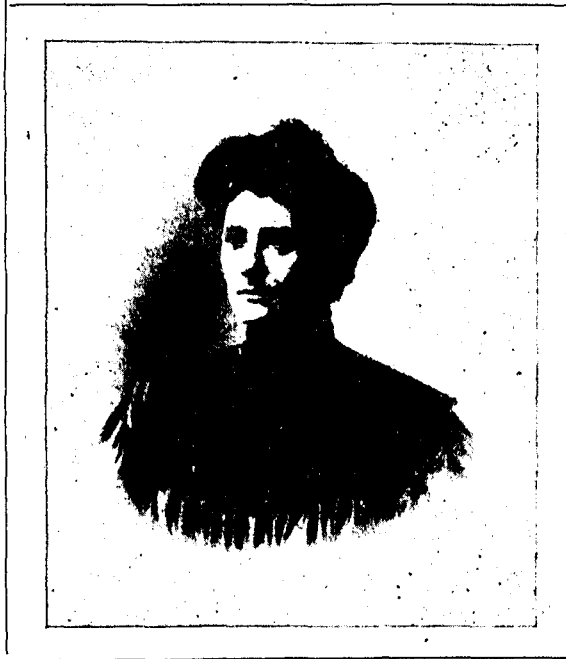
Thanks to the encouragement and aid of the

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and of the whole British Nursing Associations, and owing to our good-natured and hard-working pupils, we hope to supply within two years the Parisian hospitals of the *Assistance Publique* with well trained nurses.

In connection with the new order of things described above, it is interesting to quote from Miss Nutting and Miss Dock's *History of Nursing* an appreciation of the work of the Augustinian Sisters, who have recently left the Hôtel Dieu:

"There is something thrilling and pathetic in the thought of these twelve unbroken centuries of nursing of the Augustinian Sisters, and of their successive generations, toiling in complete self-abnegation and renunciation, even through their old age,

often to die in harness-like poor, worn-out patient horses. And from the thirteenth century on, at least, if not before, their lot seems to have been made needlessly bare and hard. Not only was their work almost cruelly heavy, but they were denied that light of knowledge and of understanding which does so much to brighten the severest toil. They were cut off from all share in the intellectual life, and even the course of outer human progress was closed to them. For them, professional instruction did not exist. Only a routine handed down from one to another approached anything that could be called teaching. What wonder that in time they atrophied mentally, and became in-



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capable of progress: that science left them behind, and that a changed environment found them unable to adapt themselves to it. . . . But the blame for their ultimate deterioration cannot fairly rest with them, but must revert back to the authors and executives of the constitution which was imposed upon them."

The change was bound to come. As M. André Mesureur well points out, devotedness and "vocation" cannot supply the place of professional knowledge. Modern nursing involves the intelligent application of scientific principles to the practical care of the sick.

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