

## Holiday Papers.

### A VISIT TO THE SALPÊTRIÈRE.

#### II.

By the courtesy of M. André Mesureur, Chef du Cabinet du Directeur de l'Administration Générale de l'Assistance Publique, we were enabled to see something of the Paris hospitals. He very kindly sent us a permit to inspect the forty-eight hospitals and other establishments which are under the jurisdiction of the Assistance Publique.

As our time was short, we were unable to avail ourselves of the generous opportunity, but our visits to two of them were of great interest and benefit to ourselves.

The Salpêtrière is a wonderful organisation; we have nothing to compare with it in England. Under the fostering care of the State, the old and infirm, young children, idiots, and the feeble-minded are maintained there. It comprises forty blocks of buildings, and harbours, personnel included, 8,000 persons, we were told. Last year a fine, large College for nurses was built, and was opened on the day and in honour of the visit of the International Nursing Congress, which met in Paris last year.

Mademoiselle Duconseil, Matron of the College, received us in a genial and international spirit, remarking that in sickness there could be no nationality, and kindly took us over the building, explaining everything in the most interesting and delightful way. The number of pupils at present is 70, but 100 are expected in October. No servants are kept, the pupils do all the housework. A *chef* seems

to be the only alien there, and he gives instruction in cooking. The term of training is two years. During the first year the pupils spend all the morning in the Paris hospitals, learning the practical portion of their work; the afternoons are devoted to study. They receive theoretical instruction from the different professors in as many subjects in the magnificent lecture hall. The subjects are medical, surgical, massage, fevers, hygiene, cooking, administration, obstetrics, etc.

Each pupil, according to her turn, has to do household work for a fortnight, and serve in the kitchen for a fortnight. All their clothes are given to them, also the stationery they require for their studies; and they receive in money 10 francs a month. The uniform was so foreign to the English idea that I could only admire it for its cleanliness.

The very short, ill-fashioned gowns were made of some thin cream-coloured cotton material; they hung starchless upon the girls' figures, and the apron to match. There was an entire absence of a dainty, neat appearance, which

was a disappointment to me. The cap, with blue ribbon ends, was neat, but scarcely pretty. A neat and pretty uniform appeals to the mind of a sick person, my own experience has taught me, and it seems a pity to ignore this fact. A diminutive rosette of red and white ribbon—the colours of the City of Paris—attached to the left side of the cap, I was informed, signified the passing of an examination—therefore, a mark of distinction.

Every pupil had a small bedroom to herself,



A PUPIL'S ROOM IN THE NURSING COLLEGE, SALPÊTRIÈRE HOSPITAL, PARIS.

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