

## The Nursing School at the Salpêtrière, Paris.

There was a brilliant scene last month at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, when M. Cruppi, President of the Board of Trade and Industry, acting on behalf of the Government, formally inaugurated the School for Nurses, which, as our readers are aware, has been established in connection with the Salpêtrière Hospital under the *Assistance Publique*, or Public Board of Charity. M. Cruppi was received in the principal courtyard of the School by M. Mesureur, Director of the Board of Charity, and M. Paul Strauss, Vice-President of the Board of Supervision of that Administration.

Amongst the distinguished visitors present were M. Cherioux, President of the County Council of Paris, M. Gay, M. Henaffé, M. H. Rousselle, M. Beer, M. Lampué, M. Viot, M. Guibert, M. Mossot, M. Navarre, and numerous members of the Board of Supervision of the Board of Charity, M. Herbet, M. Honoré, and M. Leprince. The medical faculty was represented by Professor Landouzy, Dean, and Professors de Lapersonne, Dieulafoy, and Pinard; the Medical Academy by its President, M. le Docteur Bucquoy; the Paris University by M. Liard, Vice-Rector; the physicians, surgeons, and accoucheurs of the hospitals by M. Bécère, M. Sebilleau, M. Walther, M. Bonnaire, etc.

In the reception room of the School, M. André Mesureur, Chef du Cabinet in the Director's office, presented the Matron of the School, Mme. Jacques, and her two assistants, Mlle. Haxaire and Mlle. Grenier, the Professors of the School, Miss G. Procopé, and Drs. Baumgartner, Billaret, Le Play, O. Crouzon, and P. Arnaud-Delille.

All the principal officers of the Board of Charity were present, as well as Mme. Alphen Salvador and Mlle. Chaptal, whose pupils are undergoing a practical probation in the hospitals of the Board.

In the lecture amphitheatre, where the ceremony took place, the 170 pupils were assembled, as well as the Superintendents of the hospital wards in which the pupils of the School work daily.

### M. CHERIOUX'S SPEECH.

The first speech was that of M. Cherioux, President of the Paris County Council, who said:—"You are aware, gentlemen, that this idea of nursing, which we intend to realise, took birth across the Channel." He referred to Miss Nightingale's work, and her influence in attracting gentlewomen to take up nursing, so

that English nurses are "remarkable for their intelligence as well as their dignity, which has long since won universal admiration. At the present day," he said, "English nurses are the daughters of physicians, clergymen, and officers. They are treated with consideration and respect." He urged that French girls should devote their naturally high spirits and love of order, and the devotion and tenderness which characterise the race, and which every Frenchwoman bears in her heart, to the noble task of lessening the suffering and misery of the world.

### M. MESUREUR'S SPEECH.

M. Mesureur, Director of the Board of Charity, then delivered an eloquent speech. He said:—"In all countries where Catholic domination has been unable to take a hold upon the people, as in England, the United States of America, and in Germany, a nurse is honoured and considered. In each hospital, in a special school, young women are trained in science and in kindness, and their moral as well as their intellectual qualities are developed. In Paris, the prejudice against the employment of lay nurses has been artfully maintained, and for many years weighed on the unfortunate staffs of the hospitals. The male and female nursing staffs were still considered 'underservants,' and it is only six years ago that the term 'understaff' was discontinued, and there was a regulation that 'The Sisters of Mercy will have servants under their orders.'

"To-day these menials have been given their freedom; they are educated and instructed, and have been formed into a calling which has its own special duties, traditions, technicalities, and instruction. No one can become a nurse off-hand, every profession must be learnt, and it is only by theoretical and practical tuition from professors, by applying approved methods, and by your own presence here, M. le Ministre, who take such a prominent part in technical education, that the professional character of a new science is being consecrated."

M. Mesureur then described how it became evident that if the patients entrusted to the care of the Board of Charity were to have the protection they had a right to expect, something more was needed than that the hospitals should be open to every young woman who offered herself as a nurse. A course of lectures instituted in 1880 had had very good results, but the necessity for the erection of one or more schools for nurses was apparent. To his predecessor, M. Charles Mourier, the formation of the first scheme was, he said, due, and on September 1st, 1902, he found this noted

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