

PROFESSOR PIERRE SEBILEAU'S SPEECH.

Professor Sebileau, surgeon to the hospital, and Professor at the School for Nurses at the Salpêtrière, said it was not without emotion that he spoke that day before the representative of the Government. He knew no other language than that of anatomy and surgery, and no other audience than that of his own pupils. He would, therefore, give a short lesson as usual, and tell his hearers what constituted a good hospital nurse, and what preparatory instruction she ought to receive.

The nurse is, he said, the most precious assistant of the doctors, the link between the patient at whose bedside she passes her life and the doctors who only spend, and can only spend, a few moments there each day. After describing the ideal nurse, Professor Sebileau said, "One must have gone through all the anxiety of abdominal surgical operations as I did formerly, or the anguish attending great cervical operations, as I do at present, to form an idea of the result of the continually arduous and tireless attentions of a good nurse; watching over a serious pyretic case or a dangerous operation. I have given up, and seen given up as hopeless by the greatest doctors, cases which the will, tenacity, and obstinate determination of a woman have snatched from death. I know of nothing grander or nobler than the obscure acts of a devoted attention, which take place mysteriously in the sadness of an isolation room, and bring about amazing miracles, which will remain for ever unknown.

Professor Sebileau also referred to the high moral standard required of nurses, a point which, he said, was specially insisted upon by M. André Mesureur in his annual lectures, and demonstrated daily to the pupils by their Matron, Madame Jacques.

M. CRUPPI'S SPEECH.

M. Cruppi, President of the Board of Trade and Industry, who was deputed by the Government to inaugurate the School, said, "I feel a real and sincere emotion in participating with the members of the French Republic in this truly simple and affecting ceremony.

"This is indeed, a magnificent School for Nurses, and I was happy on entering this handsome and spacious room to see tier above tier the good honest faces of those who look quite ready for the social mission they will have to fulfil. I was also much moved by the eloquent words of my friend, M. Cherioux, and those of the Director of the Board of Charity. He has given us a very perfect and exact account of the creation of the School, and the eloquent speech he has delivered deserves to appear

with honour in the records of the ancient and illustrious Salpêtrière.

"Just now, in your speech, you mentioned M. le Directeur, that I have been entrusted to develop in this country both technical and professional education. Most certainly I apply myself to the task. There must be, in France, widespread technical and professional instruction to develop industry, and a part of this expansion must go to the daily attention and care that we ought to give—inspired by the sentiments of Republican fraternity—to suffering and sickness.

"It is this same technical instruction that you have helped to organise, and it seems to me that you have already more than hopes, you have realities; and it appears to me that the institution you have established to-day is based on the soundest principles."

M. Cruppi then addressed himself to the pupils, and showed that a knowledge of bacteriology was the foundation of modern surgical nursing. "The duties you perform will," he said, "soon become for you like a series of reflex acts, in the necessity for which you will be especially initiated during and by your hospital probation."

Loud applause greeted this and the previous speeches, and so ended a remarkable and memorable ceremony.

All honour and praise are due to those by whose perseverance the School for Nurses has been established, under whose watchful care it has prospered, and whose work the Government has publicly recognised by deputing a Minister to inaugurate the new School, thus demonstrating its interest in the progress of nursing.

Practical Points.

The Use of the Razor. In preparing the field of operation, care should be taken, says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, that in

the use of the razor the utmost gentleness be exercised to prevent abrasions, which may become the site of infection. For the same reason cleansing with a stiff brush or vigorous scrubbing should be avoided.

To give Castor Oil to Children.

The late Dr. Charles West advised that a dose of castor oil should be previously shaken up in a bottle with a wineglassful of hot milk sweetened, and flavoured with a stick of cinnamon boiled in it, by which all taste of the oil is effectually concealed.

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