

Nursing Echoes.



The Dowager Empress of Russia has sent the Insignia of the Order of the Red Cross, founded in 1878 by the Emperor Alexander, to the Queen of Italy, in order to show her admiration for the work done by the Queen in caring for the injured at the time of the Messina earthquake disaster.

We recently announced that M. Mesureur, Directeur de l'Administration Générale de l'Assistance Publique, Paris, has made arrangements with the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to receive a certain number of pupils of the Salpêtrière Training School with a view to their acquiring a knowledge of English methods of nursing. The first four pupils—Mlles. Soimier, Arnal, Courtas, and Gosse—arrived with their Matron, Mme. Jacques, at St. Bartholomew's on Saturday last to undergo a two months' training in the wards. On the invitation of Lord Sandhurst, the Treasurer, these ladies will be the guests of the hospital.

On Tuesday a delightful flutter of excitement was occasioned at St. Bartholomew's by the visit of M. Mesureur, and M. Enjolras, the Director of the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris. Accompanied by Miss Stewart, they inspected the various departments of the hospital. They visited each of the wards in which the French pupils were on duty, and seemed charmed with the English nurses, and all they saw. Later Miss Stewart had one of her happy little luncheons at which M. Mesureur renewed acquaintance with several of those who enjoyed his most kind hospitality at Paris in 1907.

The French nurses say they are not a bit homesick, and looked very bright and happy. Their uniform is a simple linen overall made with a yoke and long sleeves, over which a bibless apron is worn. The cap of white muslin has dark blue ribbon streamers, and attached is a small blue and red ribbon badge (the colours of the city of Paris), which denotes that they have passed their first year's examination at the Nursing College of the Salpêtrière. There appears to be much linguistic competition at "Bart's" at the present time, Matron so far forgetting herself as to address the lift boy in the Gallic tongue, the maids complaining they cannot understand the directions of the Assistant Matron, and one bright boy patient

of 16 going so far as to make his needs politely known in French. Anyway, all agree that the nursing *entente* is most cordiale.

Thirty years ago we were facing the nursing problems with which France is to-day confronted. We rejoice that French nurses are studying, in an English hospital, the methods we have found most useful, and which they will no doubt adapt to their own special needs and pass on to others in their turn.

On Tuesday evening M. Mesureur spoke with his usual eloquence before the Alliance Franco-Britannique at the Grafton Galleries on "L'Organisation des Secours Public en France."

The Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W., is again able to present a very satisfactory report. There are 474 fully trained nurses on the general staff and 27 asylum trained nurses for mental patients. Those nurses who joined the Co-operation before the end of 1902 (874) pay 5 per cent. on their earnings and the remainder 7½ per cent. The fund so constituted is used in maintaining a policy by which all nurses are insured against accident, in the upkeep of the central office, and the payment of the permanent staff, after which any surplus is invested in a reserve fund. Under the accident policy compensation has been paid to nurses who have met with accidents of various kinds, and the Committee have recently arranged a further policy of assurance against sickness and disease, under which, by a small annual contribution, supplemented from the funds of the Co-operation, all the nurses become entitled to a weekly allowance while temporarily incapacitated for work. The arrangement has been warmly supported by the nursing staff, and is regarded as proving the substantial value of co-operation.

The Committee express their appreciation of the able administration of the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Lucas, and say also that the successful working of the Howard de Walden Home reflects great credit on the Home Sister, Miss Baker, whose interest in it and loyalty to the Co-operation they desire heartily to acknowledge.

The Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, which has as its object "the creation of a fund for securing annuities to worn-out or disabled trained nurses," has just issued its thirty-fourth annual report. The most interesting point in this is that the effect of the Old Age Pensions Act has been far-reaching, and has

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