

quickly that any lay women were welcomed in their stead. The cultured bourgeoisie could not possibly under the circumstances enter the hospitals, and, of course the nobility would not have been allowed even if they had approved of the anti-clerical movement, which again would have been impossible, as the clericals are Royalists, and the Royalists clericals. The working woman was, therefore, the only procurable help, and as in those days education was not compulsory, the women who could read and write were rare. With indomitable courage Dr. Bourneville started evening classes and lectures, and with the help and support of such directors as M. Montreuil (the late director of the Salpêtrière), some of the younger and cleverer women rose and became excellent nurses and surveillantes, such as we were trained by in English hospitals in earlier days—in fact, remarkable women like the late Mme. Bottard and Mme. Brochard; the former who will and ought to become immortal amongst asylum nurses for introducing a system of classification of hysterical, insane, and epileptic patients; the latter for her devotion and endurance in the cholera epidemic, when day or night she never left her post, taking only sufficient food and sleep to keep her up. Nevertheless, notwithstanding such noble examples, the mass of French nurses were ignorant, mercenary, and frequently very immoral. The hospitals were in the hands of the Government, supported by the rates, so that neither private initiative nor educated ladies were allowed any interference, the power being entirely in the hands of men. Nursing was, therefore, at a very low ebb and standard some ten years ago, and the contrast was all the more striking as surgery and bacteriology developed. It was then that Mme. Alphen Salvador and Dr. Anna Hamilton came to the fore and acted amidst a good deal of opposition and indignation from the Government, the doctors, and the public. With great courage Dr. Hamilton wrote her splendid and classic thesis on nursing, and with the most admirable energy, devotion, and enthusiasm Madame Alphen Salvador started her little training school in the Rue Amyot in Paris. With her charm of manner combined with her social qualities and position, she not only knew how to awaken the notice of the Assistance Publique, but got them to allow her to use their hospitals as practical schools for the teaching of her pupils, and at the same time showed them an object lesson as to how French ladies could become nurses without lowering their dignity. M. G. Mesureur's predecessor died in two years, it is said, from the efforts he made to reform the hospitals, and then followed M. Mesureur, who seemed to have the same unsolvable problem to face. I remember so well everybody in Paris saying he would not, and could not, succeed. But he had seen what Madame Salvador had done, and it gave him courage. He started by defining a line between the nursing staff and all the other workers in the Assistance Publique, such as the servants in the laundries, kitchens, schools, etc., and while he was getting rid of the male attendants and reforming the moral tone, he was building the college for nurses. These pupils practically have their home

at the college, while in the day time they work in the wards of the various hospitals, where they get their practical training. All the theoretical lectures and studies are carried out at the training school. This preliminary training lasts for two years, after which the pupils will get posts in the hospitals as second-class nurses—that is to say, under the surveillantes, being equivalent to the English staff nurses, and not till after five years of nursing can they become full surveillantes and able to get married. When they marry every provision is made for them in times of sickness and child-birth, and they are allowed rooms.

How all this is going to develop in the future still remains to be seen. The second-year pupils will not finish till October of this year. Soon, very soon, the new hospital, La Pitié, which now stands within the walls of the Salpêtrière, will be opened. This will help towards the development of M. G. Mesureur's scheme, for it will contain 1,000 beds, and there will be no further need for the pupils to go out to the various hospitals for their daily practical training; the college will be their home, and the hospital will lie close by within the same walls. In the meantime the present pupils, with their varied experience of the workings of the system of the Assistance Publique hospitals will be most useful to the younger and coming pupils, while at the present moment they are rendering the greatest assistance in all the hospitals in which they work, relieving the strain on the understaffed nurses, for up till now there has not been sufficient accommodation to lodge a larger number. And as time goes on, M. Mesureur, who has been Cabinet Minister more than once, and who has so distinguished himself in Paris hospital reform, will know how to deal with the needs of the day. "He who goes slowly goes surely," seems to be his motto, for he is wonderfully far-seeing and patient in awaiting results instead of forcing them.

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## The Belgian Federation of Lay Nursing Schools.

As most of our readers are aware, nursing in the hospitals in Belgium is largely in the hands of the religious orders. It is interesting, therefore, to learn that a Federation of Belgian lay nursing schools has been founded, and that it recently held a re-union in Brussels, where one of the subjects for consideration was the International Congress of Nurses in London, and, as we announce in another column, three fraternal delegates are being sent by this Federation to the Congress in July.

The object of the Federation is to unite the lay nursing schools in Belgium, and to promote the propaganda in their favour. It comprises the professors of these nursing schools, and the doctors interested in the question, and male and female nurses holding a diploma recognised by the Federation have a right to membership.

The movement in favour of lay nursing must mean such uphill work in Belgium that we are sure these delegates will have a very cordial welcome.

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