

and serves to point out to them that they must never be found wanting in anything, if they wish to obtain the respect of all. Here, it is well to recall that in France a girl is not protected, and her task is much harder than anywhere else.

So in order to give you an opportunity of judging our pupils, I will quote some passages from their "diaries."

"This morning one of the servants seeing me for the first time in the ward, asked me my name. I answered 'Mademoiselle Alazard'; he then said in a jocular tone: 'No, here there is no Mademoiselle, tell me your Christian name!' 'I am called Mademoiselle Alazard,' was my reply."

"The House Surgeon asked me why I trained in the School, instead of doing like other nurses. I was fortunate enough to give an answer which was approved of by the Head Doctor: 'Why are you a house-doctor before being a physician?'"

Another writes: "In our ward is a man who seems far from respectable; he takes pleasure in saying vulgar things, and when I went to his bed-side, his words made me blush, but I had sufficient firmness to give him a lesson, and seriously reproached him for the expressions he had made use of, telling him that he ought to be grateful to those who made it their duty to take such good care of him. Since, I am pleased to say I have a most submissive and polite patient."

To close these observations, which again show the force of habit which our pupils have to overcome.

"The house surgeon expressed his astonishment of our being addressed as 'Mademoiselle.' A nurse is called by her Christian name. I answered him thus: 'When you enter a shop to make a purchase, you do not ask the Christian name of the saleswoman.'"

Punishments are also subjects of moral lessons, and we are constantly on the watch to awaken in our pupils a sentiment of conscientiousness. We have often been obliged to constitute them their own judges, and frequently, instead of an explanation of the fault committed being necessary, pupils have been heard to condemn themselves far more severely than we should have done.

In everything we try not to swerve from the strictest justice and sentiment of equality—a principle which should be absolute in a democratic school.

To sum up, we believe that on this basis and with the object it has in view, the School for Nurses of the Assistance Publique cannot be better planned, and we obtain the maximum of intellectual and physical effort.

One must not misappreciate the French woman's quick and subtle mind, and the new generation of the "Salpêtriennes" proves to the foreigner, who looked upon her rather as a doll, that she is capable of great efforts and will-power. It was sufficient to completely suppress the nuns as nurses, with their ignorance and want of cleanliness, and to make an appeal, for it to be answered from the four corners of France by masses of willing and devoted women.

To give them the necessary theory and practice, to raise their sentiments on a level with their duty, in a word, to make them the ideal helpers of the hospital doctor, was a comparatively easy task, with such a soil to sow in.

The Assistance Publique of Paris may well be proud of its pupils; they give back to France the place the congregations had lost her—a place for the "Salpêtriennes" in the first rank.

International News.

FROM JAPAN.

No member of the International Congress of Nurses was more generally admired than Miss Take Hagiwara, the delegate of the Red Cross Society of Japan, and one of its most distinguished nurses. Indeed it is not too much to say that her charming personality and gentle and courteous ways made her the pet of the Congress.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we learn of Miss Hagiwara's safe arrival in Japan in the following letter from Tokyo:—

DEAR PRESIDENT,—There are no words to express my gratitude for all you did for me during my stay in London. I have really enjoyed my trip, and my friends here are equally glad to know that I had such a pleasant time. It is more than a month since I came back, but many things have crowded in and a month has gone like a day.

Kitano Maru, the boat I came back in, started again for London last Saturday (November 6th), and I asked one of the officers to take a parcel to you. It contains a small lacquer box such as we think a piece of Japanese art. I hope you will get it safely, and will like it. . . . The boat is not due until the beginning of New Year. I am sorry it will not be in time for Christmas.

Japan is beautiful now in its autumnal glow, and the colouring of the leaves is something like a picture. I cannot help but wish all my friends could see the beauty of my country. I expect you will say the same for England, and I can second the wish since I am an eye-witness now.

Hoping you are enjoying the best of health,

Very sincerely yours,

TAKE HAGIWARA.

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