

the Salpêtrière we have never been intimidated by the manifestations of those who feared that my pupils were learning too much. A nurse must have a perfect instruction, both technical and general, and Monsieur André Mesureur, when organising our school, did not hesitate to have professors from the University, to expound to our pupils grand historical questions, and even speak on very difficult subjects of philosophy, and having understood many general ideas, they have raised themselves above the trivial life of those who live from day to day, and have given themselves up to this task of school nursing with such ardour and success.

I quote from the reports made by the Directrices of the schools, their conclusions and results obtained:—"Improvement in general cleanliness; teeth kept clean; the pupils try not to bite their nails; the elder ones wash their hands more often; the younger ones try to keep cleaner."

Another writes:—"Our nurse was able to relieve, during the first few weeks, about sixty children suffering from chilblains, chaps, pin-pricks, cuts, burns. One day she discovered in seven pupils the symptoms of measles; of these seven two actually had the disease, and, thanks to this immediate precaution, an epidemic was suppressed. . . . Her task is still nobler when, leading home a little boy threatened with measles, she is received by an old grandmother of eighty, holding in her arms a child of two years of age, that a cruel mother had abandoned, and whose father was an alcoholic. What a sad sight! Our kind nurse said comforting words; she did more, she went to the town hall, sent the doctor, and obtained relief for them."

Such is the characteristic effect of this new function. On account of the centralisation in Paris of all relief services, hospitals, home relief, medical attendance at home, dispensaries, etc., nothing is easier than to unite all these means of giving relief, and to notify where it is needed.

In some families difficulties have been encountered, especially caused by drunken fathers, who showed animosity towards the "*dame de propriété*." The following is an example:—

"This afternoon I went to see the parents of one of our pupils, to tell them that the child's head must be cleaned; the mother received me well, but was put out; because she kept a wine shop she feared my presence might injure her business. I was just telling her how to rid the child's head of the vermin, when the father rushed in like a madman, his eyes blood-shot, with every appearance of a

lunatic or an alcoholic, abusing both his wife and myself, in fact almost striking me. It was impossible to get him to listen to reason, seeing which I left, for I felt quite out of patience, and might have said words I should have regretted."

The impression produced by our school nurses taking up their position in the school shows that the pupils understood that there was an innovation.

"My first visit caused a perfect revolution when I inspected and noted the state of cleanliness of the feet, tears were shed, and many were ashamed; this visit had been spoken of so often that they no longer expected it, there were exclamations, sighs, and laughter when I paid a compliment."

It is because there has been in Paris, thanks to the School for Nurses at the Salpêtrière, an application of an idea and a system already of long standing in English speaking countries, but unknown in France, that Monsieur M. G. Mesureur, Director of the general administration of the Board of Charity of Paris, has delegated me to this Congress, to make this communication, and to salute you in the name of the hospitals of Paris, and the School of the Salpêtrière, and to ask you to enrol us among the pioneers of School Nursing.

League News.

A very pleasant meeting of the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League was held on the evening of Friday, 25th ult., when Archdeacon Bevan, who was Gresham Lecturer, read a most interesting paper on "Tennyson" in this, the centenary year of the great poet, whose pure and elevating verse might be more deeply studied by nurses. After listening to Archdeacon Bevan, whose keen literary faculty inspired every word of his paper with special value, the members of the League registered a vow to know more of their Tennyson. The evening, of course, included tea and talk of the most friendly nature.

A Home of Peace.

To die in retirement and quiet is the natural instinct of every animal, but for human beings, in the poorer parts of our large cities, privacy is often impossible, and they die, as they have lived, in public. Nurses who are often at a loss what to suggest for patients discharged from hospital as incurable may be glad to know that at Friedenheim Hospital, 8, Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, which held its annual meeting last Saturday, hopeless cases are received, and cared for to the end.

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