

The Nursing School at the Tondu Civil Hospital, Bordeaux.

The picture which we have the pleasure of publishing on this page is of a group of nurses at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux, of which Miss C. Elston is Directrice. The Annual Report of this school is a most interesting record of progress, and the numerous illustrations add greatly to its interest.

The report opens with a resumé of the history of the foundation of the School. "L'École de Gardes-Malades Hospitalières." It was created in 1903 by the Administrative Committee of the Bordeaux Hospitals, and the intention was at first to receive without distinction lay pupils, and those who belonged to Religious Orders, Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, resident and non-resident. The first group of pupils was received at the Hospital of St. André, and consisted partly of young girls and partly of religious sisters belonging to communities which had for many years been attached to charitable institutions in Bordeaux.

It was the object of those who founded the School to give their pupils a professional education on the model of those schools which had for long been known and appreciated where the work of Florence Nightingale has prospered. It was not, however, found desirable, after some practical experience, to combine incompatible elements in one training school and ultimately the Hospital of St. André was resigned to the religious sisterhoods in October, 1904, and the Directrice and the lay pupils were established in the Tondu Hospital of 120

beds then recently opened where they have done good work ever since.

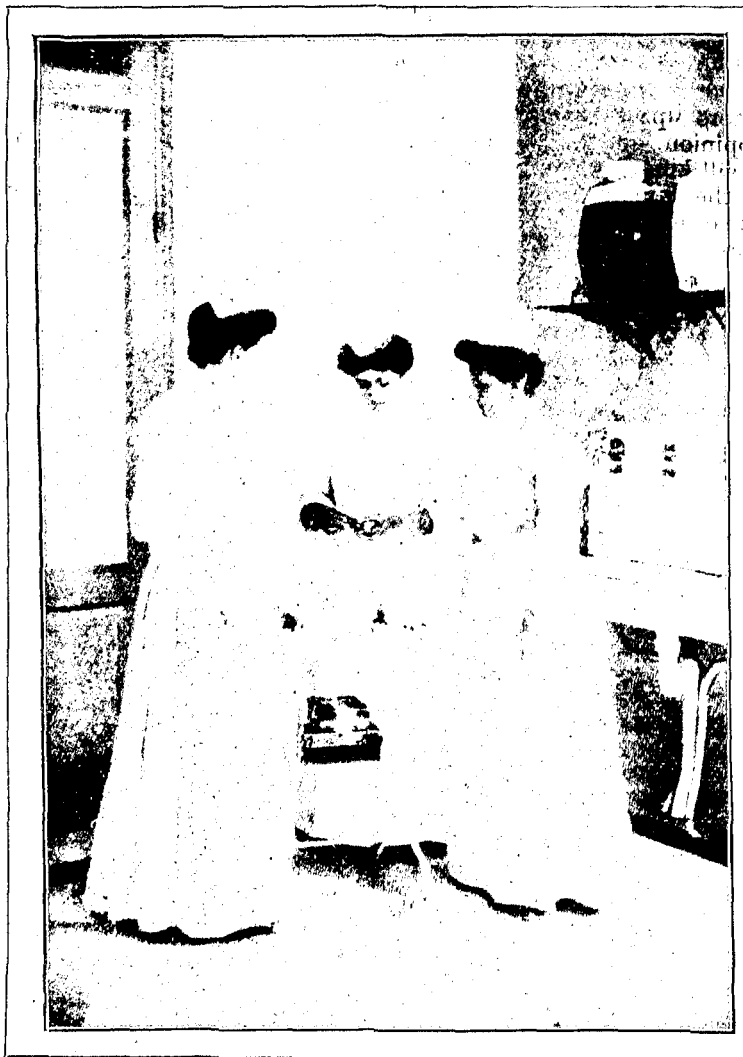
After a few months Miss Catherine Elston, then *Cheftaine Générale* at the Maison de Santé Protestante, Bordeaux—whose work there was greatly appreciated by the fourteen physicians and surgeons, most of whom were attached to the civil hospitals—was appointed Directrice. Since that time the school under the able direction of Miss Elston—who had the advantage of the invaluable support of Dr. Lande, whose professional eminence has been recognised by the award of the highest

distinction the French Government could bestow—has progressed and increased, and there are now 51 certificated nurses, whose services are greatly in demand in other parts of France, and many of whom hold important positions, while several have been honoured by the award of decorations by public bodies. The Government also gave practical proof of its appreciation of the work of the School when President Loubet in 1904 presented to its Directrice the medal of the *Assistance Publique*, and shortly afterwards the Minister of Public Instruction bestowed upon her the *palmes académiques*.

Miss Elston has under her control all the administrative ser-

vices, including the laundry and the kitchen, as well as the nursing department, for in order to instruct the pupils on the lines adopted in modern training schools, it has been found necessary to give the Directrice full authority over the various departments. This is unusual in France, where a male head, who has consequently to discharge many essential feminine duties, is usually placed in charge of hospitals.

The course of training for the pupils is essentially



Certificated Nurse. Pupil. Cheftaine.

A Group of Nurses at the Tondu Hospital, Bordeaux.

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