

position of the staff nurses, and to ensure to the Directrice well qualified assistants.

Dr. Hamilton, in her report, pays a high tribute to Miss Bryant's work, and to the faithfulness with which she discharged every small duty. She adds, "She knows my gratitude, but I could not let this occasion pass without expressing it officially."

During the year six new graduates have been added to the number of nurses certificated by the hospital, in all 49, several of whom hold the position of Directrice in various French hospitals. Special care is taken to prepare the pupils during their training to fill these important posts, and instruction is given in administrative work, and by Mlle. Schweighäuser in domestic management.

Miss Edith Gregory, who now holds the position of Sister in the hospital, writes happily of the work. She reports that the pupil nurses are very intelligent and well educated, work very hard, and are very capable. They are keen to be taught anything new. Miss Gregory speaks of Dr. Hamilton's work as "marvellous." She is very interested in the variety of food provided for the patients, and in the way in which it is served. We have alluded before to the capacity of "Mme. Econome" in the Bordeaux hospitals. We have no one quite like her in this country.

The *Garde Malade Hospitalière* announces the formation of a new section of the "Union Girondine Anti-alcoolique" for hospital nurses, founded by a group of nurses who realise the social duties which this honourable title imposes on them. Our contemporary warmly supports the new movement, and publishes a report of a lecture given by a member of the committee of the Union to the pupils of the Bordeaux Schools, as a result of which sixty applications for membership were at once received. The new association is designed to interest nurses in one of the gravest problems of the present time, the struggle against inebriety, and to enable them to take an effective part in it. The obligations of those who join the association are to pay a small subscription and to promote its propaganda on all possible occasions.

### The Burning Question.

On Saturday, the 30th April, at 7 p.m., the burning question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be under discussion at the Conference at the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, S.W. The Session will open with a Paper in support of reform by Miss A. Hobbs,

R.B.N.A., and that valiant "anti," the Hon. Sydney Holland, will act as spokesman for the opposition. It would be altogether more seemly if an opposing Matron would come out in the open and discuss the pros. and cons. of this professional question with her colleagues. As the employer of the most lucrative nursing staff in the Metropolis, the Chairman of the London Hospital is always at a disadvantage, as so long as huge profits are made by diverting the greater part of the private nurses' fees to the general purposes of the hospital, he can never convince trained nurses who are business women that they are not desperately in need of State registration and protection.

Anyway, we presume there are some stalwart bobbies about in the vicinity of Vincent Square on Saturday nights!

### Practical Scheme for Red Cross Work.

Next week we shall publish an admirably practical article by Mrs. Netterville Barron, of Ascot, and a member of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, suggesting a "Scheme for the Organisation and Proper Management of the Work now being undertaken by the Branches of the Royal Red Cross Society."

It is a very suggestive scheme, and just what is required to encourage volunteers to come forward who will be allotted duties and taught how to perform them.

### A Terrible Tragedy.

Our announcement last week of the sudden death of Mrs. Hampton Robb, which occurred on Saturday, April 16th, aroused the very deepest sympathy with her colleagues and family amongst her friends in this country. The sad manner of her death has now become known. In attempting to cross the electric car tracks at Cleveland, U.S.A., the city in which she resided, and to avoid an automobile she stepped on to what is known as the "devil's strip," hoping that there would be room to stand, but this being too narrow she was caught and crushed between two cars. When released she was unconscious, and closed her eyes in death as she was lifted into the automobile to be taken to St. Luke's Hospital, where it was found that the vital organs of the chest were mortally injured.

The friend who was with her, in the emergency stepped forward instead of backward, and, although incapacitated by shock, mercifully received no injury.

Mrs. Robb's funeral took place at her birthplace, Welland, Ontario, Canada, on Tuesday, April 19th, and indescribable grief at the manner of her tragic death overshadows the whole American nursing world.

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