

from Dr. Hamilton to take charge of the school, Miss Elston was in Bordeaux.

"The career of unbroken success and brilliant achievement that fell thereafter to her lot, graciously and modestly as it was met, should be a source of pride and satisfaction to her *alma mater*."

Miss Elston only remained with Dr. Hamilton at the Protestant Hospital long enough to train her successor: Her work had come under the observation of Dr. Lande, then Mayor of Bordeaux, who was so impressed with it that he determined to introduce the same system into the public hospitals. A beginning was made in the Hospital of St. André, for the matronship of which a Dutch nurse was first selected, but after three months she gave up the struggle, and the Protestant Hospital came to the rescue by lending Miss Elston to continue the trial. "The resident medical students were furious at the oncoming of a school for nurses. They had written a pamphlet of fifteen pages, declaring that all a nurse needed was to be clean and intelligent; all the rest was in the doctor's province. . . . The male secular attendants at St. André wrote a badly spelled, menacing letter to Dr. Hamilton, threatening her with vengeance, and obscene articles were published in the public Press."

When the head nurses and probationers took over the work in certain wards, they found jugs with holes in them, leaking douche tins, and, later, water running from the bath-room to the wards. Examination revealed the overflows plugged with wool. The linen cupboard which seemed well filled and tidy, was found to be stocked with rags, and the patients emptied their hot water bottles into their beds, thinking that the mattresses would not be changed, and that the nurses would be discredited in the eyes of the doctors.

Six months later, Miss Elston was asked by the Préfet if she felt capable of managing a hospital alone, and replying in the affirmative, if she could have it under her own control, she was transferred to the Tondu, where she soon had a model system established.

The nurses of the Bordeaux schools have from the outset been encouraged by Dr. Hamilton, Miss Elston, and Dr. Lande, to go into reform work, and quite a number of provincial hospitals have been opened to them, with the understanding that one of the group sent shall be given the position of directress, otherwise they would be powerless to effect reforms.

A Bordeaux nurse, placed in charge of a male division of sixty beds in a laicised hospital, wrote in 1906 that "the young woman who for three years had been head nurse of this ward,

was on terms of great familiarity with the patients, and at nine o'clock she was accustomed to seat herself with her crocheting beside her favourite, a chronic case who was her servant, man of affairs, and confidant, and who had a whole outfit of domestic utensils in his bed. He cleaned and mended her clothes, filled her lamp, waxed her shoes, polished the instruments, broke up loaf sugar, cut and made dressings and bandages, without ever getting out of bed or washing his hands.

Returning to the work of M. G. Mesureur as Director-General of the Paris Department of Public Charities, Miss Dock tells that "he found among his predecessor's notes plans and estimates for a School for Nurses. He determined to complete it, and thereafter the improvement of the nursing service was one of his cherished objects. A kindly and tactful official, sincerely desirous of elevating the *morale* and technique of nursing in the hospitals, he has erected a splendid memorial of his administration in the new school and its high purpose.

"In the summer of 1907 the finished structure stood extensive and beautiful, built upon a plan of great dignity and seemliness, in the ample grounds of the Salpêtrière. Its noble dining halls and spacious assembly rooms, fine amphitheatre for lectures and demonstrations, large class-rooms and small quiet studies, generously planned library and museum of nursing appliances and equipment, are like those of a college, setting it in the forefront of nursing schools, while provision was made for single bedrooms and every possible comfort for 150 pupil nurses, and for a Directress, the Principal of the School. Here is the outfit for a revolution."

"At the London Congress in 1909 the nurses of other nations had the pleasure of meeting a group of the pupils of the City of Paris, who were passing their internship at St. Bartholomew's, and whose bright young faces, animated ways, and boundless enthusiasm won all hearts."

Curiously, in one of the most beautiful hospitals of Paris—the Boucicaut—although under the *Assistance Publique*, Religious Sisters still retain office, for this was a condition of an endowment left to it. "The Order placed in charge was a branch of the Irish Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters do all the nursing, having no servants about their patients, wear the prettiest white linen habits, and explain freely the orders and treatment of the cases in the French language, with a soft touch of Irish brogue. So progresses the revolution, and over every hospital stand the glorious words, *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*." M. B.

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