

A SPLENDID TRIBUTE.

The Government, the town of Bordeaux, and the administrative committee of the Bordeaux hospitals, rendered a splendid tribute of regard to Miss Elston before she left the Tondu Hospital, to take up fresh work as Directrice of the Parnet Hospital, Algiers. We learn, from *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière*, that M. Duréault, Prefect of the Gironde, and M. Ch. Gruet, Mayor of Bordeaux expressed, in terms marked by frank cordiality, their admiration and their gratitude, for this brave pioneer of the Florence Nightingale system

of the city (M. Charles Gruet), surrounded by the members of the Committee of Hospitals, before the Prefect of the Gironde, who had honoured them by assisting at the ceremony, before the doctors, and before representatives of the nursing staff, presented a gold medal—that is to say, the highest honour of the town of Bordeaux—to their distinguished Directrice Mlle. Catherine Elston, who had, with the authority and competence which they knew so well, directed the nursing school of the Tondu Hospital from its foundation. Now it was the turn of the administration and the doctors to offer to her, who—her task accomplished—was



INTERIOR GALLERY, WOMEN'S SIDE: PARNET HOSPITAL, ALGIERS.

in France. They awarded to Miss Elston the gold medal of the town of Bordeaux—a precious souvenir, which will always remind her of the town where she realised her dream as a young girl in Paris, when, having had a glimpse of a hospital in the capital, she determined to do something for French nursing.

After the official ceremony of the reception of the medal, nurses of all grades, former certificated pupils of the school holding posts in Bordeaux, employés, patients, convalescents and friends, assembled to wish their Directrice adieu. M. Ch. Cazalet (Administrator of Hospitals) presided; and seated near him were Miss Elston, Professor Bégouin, and Mlle. Gallienne, the new Directrice.

M. Cazalet, addressing the nurses, said that it was only a few hours before that the chief magistrate

leaving them, the testimony of their esteem and regard, and, he thought Miss Elston would permit him to add, their most respectful sympathy and affection.

After bearing high testimony to Miss Elston's work, M. Gruet said it would be unpardonable, in a ceremony of this kind, if he did not also salute the noble woman whose apostleship at the Maison de Santé Protestante had inspired the foundation of the Tondu Nursing School (the first in France), the renown and fame of which with Dr. Lande and Miss Elston she had spread far and wide—Mlle. Dr. Hamilton.

After expressing his good wishes to Mlle. Gallienne, M. Gruet presented to Miss Elston a magnificent sheaf of roses and lilies, tied with a knot of rose-coloured ribbon, inscribed with letters

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)