

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE FRENCH HOSPITAL, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.

The whole of London last week was bubbling over with the *entente*, but nowhere did the visit of the French President give greater delight than at the French Hospital, where his sick compatriots were charmed by the consideration which found time for a visit to them during days crowded with engagements, and those patients who were fortunate enough to be in the wards which M. Poincaré inspected were made specially happy by his kind words and fatherly demeanour.

The hospital, as one enters, gives one a general impression of light and coolness, and the walls of white glazed bricks decorated with green are most pleasant and restful. The handsome central hall where the committee, with the Sister Superior of the Order of the Sacred Heart, and the Nursing Sisters in their white habits were awaiting the President's arrival, was effectively decorated, medallions bearing the letter R.F. (*Republique Française*) being a conspicuous feature. Here an address of welcome was presented by Mr. Lazarus-Barlow President of the Hospital Committee, to which M. Poincaré replied, and then decorated Mr. Clayton Greene F.R.C.S. Surgeon to the hospital with the Legion of Honour.

The President must surely have been charmed with the wards—airy and spacious—containing about five beds at most. This of course adds to the work of the nursing staff but is appreciated by the patients. The centre of each table was decorated with a basket of La France roses, and the cornflowers, carnations, and white roses on each locker were reminiscent of the French tricolor.

In the women's wards each patient can be secured absolute privacy if necessary by the drawing of the curtains of washable material. A further advantage of this is, as the Sister Superior pointed out, that when a death occurs the curtained off space seems quite natural to the patients remaining in the wards, and has not the gruesome effect of screens, also there is plenty of space for the nurses to work behind the curtains. The hospital possesses an up-to-date operating theatre and it is needless to say that the kitchen where all the cooking for patients and staff is done by two Sisters is a most cheery apartment. The copper pans all polished to perfection, and two mammoth French coffee pots testify that the national beverage is prepared in large quantities.

## THE NATIONAL FOOD REFORM ASSOCIATION.

### SECOND GUILDHALL CONFERENCE.

The Guildhall Conference on Diet, Cookery and Hygiene in Public Elementary Schools, and Public Philanthropic Institutions for Children and Adolescents, was opened on Monday last by Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Cooper, and on Tuesday the Lord Mayor welcomed the members. Sir George Kekewich presided at the morning session, and Sir James Yoxall, M.P., at the afternoon session of the first day, Monday, June 30th.

#### FIRST DAY.

##### SESSION I.

The first paper read was on "The Working of the Provision of Meals Act in Bradford" by Miss Marian E. Cuff, Organizing Superintendent of Domestic Subjects, under the Bradford City Council, who said that the twentieth century had well been described as "the century of the child," for probably the importance of a good start in life had never been so fully realized as at the present time. Very closely allied to the Science of Eugenics, on the one hand, and to Education on the other was the Science of Nutrition. It came between the two, for only the child who was well born and wisely fed could make the most of the education offered.

"The Social and Educational Aspects of the School Meal" were ably dealt with by Miss Millicent Mackenzie, M.A., Professor of Education at University College, Cardiff, who emphasised the fact that the economic aspects of the school meal are too often studied to the exclusion of the equally important social and educational effects. This was partly due to the confusion between *free* meal and school meal. In other countries, and in secondary schools in our own, school meals were provided, for which the parents paid. The school meal was necessary for all children who must remain at school during the dinner hour and desirable for many others, and we should adopt a bolder policy and provide it, so that the same meal should be shared by those whose parents can pay, and those whose parents temporarily or permanently cannot do so. Each school should have its own meal prepared and served by the pupils who would thus learn practical domestic economy.

Dr. Victor J. Blake, School Medical Officer to the County Borough of Portsmouth, read a valuable paper on "The Importance of a Well Advised and Comprehensive Scheme in the Selection of Children in Public Elementary Schools under the Education (Provision of Meals) Act 1906, with some Suggestions as to Organization." Dr. Blake naturally regards the question from the medical standpoint, and considers that the ultimate object should be the careful study and, if possible, elimination, of the many and varied causes of malnutrition among school children, brought about as in so many cases by improper and under-feeding. For this reason he considers that the whole feeding of the school children

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