

over 310, who are at present in the hospitals, and some of whom wear the golden star, the insignia of the head nurses.

The pupils who came out first at the final examination presented the President with a magnificent basket of flowers representing the coat of arms of the town of Paris, for Madame Poincaré. M. G. Mesureur, director of the Administration, then presented the staff and certificated nurses of the School. M. Poincaré replied in the following words:

MONSIEUR POINCARÉ'S SPEECH.

"Ladies, I thank you for the beautiful flowers you have presented me with, so tastefully arranged with the colours of the town of Paris. I shall take them away with me as a pleasing remembrance of your establishment. I am greatly pleased to have been able to-day, to visit this successful school for nurses, which does honour to the town of Paris, to the Administration of the Assistance Publique and to M. Mesureur.

"Nurses, are, most surely, the hospital doctors' and surgeons' most valuable helpers. If only kindness of heart, tact, patience and devotedness were needed, it would not be necessary to give them a special education, and the majority of French women would naturally and without any effort be able to accomplish a hospital mission.

"But, besides this, a nurse must have a knowledge of medicine, surgery and anatomy; and finally, and above all, she must receive a professional instruction and know most thoroughly the art of nursing and dressing.

"I am aware that in this school, the pupils receive a most complete technical instruction and are at the same time carefully prepared to meet the great moral duties which await them.

Thus armed to fight against suffering they will know how to aid the doctors, to relieve pain, and when possible to cure the sick, and they will thus be able to help the cause of humanity."

Before retiring M. L. L. Klotz, Minister of the Interior, as a proof of the interest he takes in the institution, handed M. André Mesureur the sum of 200 frs. for any little improvements.

This visit produced a deep impression, not only among the staff, but also outside the School, and will help to raise the prestige of the School of the Salpêtrière as well as of the profession.

Besides, the Administration is ceaseless in its endeavours to improve the position of its staff of nurses and head-nurses and at the same time to improve the present remuneration for head-nurses, a new regulation has been made which will henceforth allow of their obtaining a pension after 25 years' service, and at the age of 55.

When the King arrived at Chichester, on Monday, *en route* for Goodwood House, a suffragist, in nursing uniform, endeavoured to present a petition to His Majesty. She was removed by the police, when, nothing daunted, a second woman ran forward, with the same object and with the same result. Both petitioners were released by His Majesty's special direction.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The steady streams of women, many of them known by their good deeds and lifelong interest in the welfare of humanity, who marched steadily from all points of the compass to Hyde Park on Saturday, were a very impressive sight. It was the last march of the non-militant suffrage pilgrims and their supporters, who have during past weeks passed along the great high roads of the country, instructing and educating the people on the justice of the demand for the political enfranchisement of women. There were nineteen platforms in the Park, from one of which Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., spoke to an eager and sympathetic crowd. It was announced that the whole amount collected since the start of the pilgrimage was £7,809—practical proof of the awakening of many a conscience on this vital question, and when at six o'clock after many eloquent and convincing speeches, the resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women was put simultaneously at each platform, it was carried everywhere with much cheering, entirely drowning the few dissentient male voices amongst the crowd.

One sad sight we observed: a poor man, tattered and torn, reduced to wearing a poster declaring "Women do *not* want the vote." Could indigence and mendacity conspire to tell a more base untruth?

We pitied the poor thing vastly, and longed for the day when enfranchised womanhood would spare such indignity to any mother's son.

Meanwhile, in this degenerate land of the free, at a garden party given at the official residence of the Prime Minister, stringent precautions were taken to exclude "dangerous" guests. Scotland yard officers were in the gardens, in the entrance hall, and at the exit gates. Why not entertain at Scotland Yard, close by?

The desirability of the co-operation of women in caring for the mentally defective was discussed during the consideration of the Scottish Mental Deficiency Bill by the Scottish Grand Committee of the House of Commons.

Mr. Munro-Ferguson urged that the co-option of women should be made compulsory, contending that their presence on local bodies had been shown to make for economical administration.

Mr. Pringle thought the proposal to make it mandatory upon local authorities to co-opt women was thoroughly undemocratic.

Ultimately Mr. McKinnon Wood permitted an amendment providing that two women should be co-opted on district boards.

Considering that if the mentally defective of either sex are to be efficiently cared for they must be attended by trained women, to exclude them from administrative duties would be

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