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EDITORIAL.

A MEMORIAL TO AMERICAN WAR NURSES.

During the great war, as a result of their war service, no less than 284 American nurses—of whom 101 are buried in France—gallantly laid down their lives in the service of their country and of humanity, and it is the natural desire of their colleagues to pay tribute to their memory.

The Joint Boards of Directors of the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organisation of Public Health Nursing, of which Miss Clara D. Noyes is Chairman, who have had the question of a memorial under consideration, have decided that the most suitable would be to aid in the development of the Nursing Service of France, and that the Florence Nightingale School at Bordeaux (attached to the Maison de Santé Protestante), and its urgent needs, afford a most appropriate opportunity for giving effect to this plan.

Readers of this Journal are well informed as to the fine work carried on in this School under the direction of Dr. Anna Hamilton, since 1901.

Like all pioneers, Dr. Hamilton has had uphill and difficult work, but she has never compromised on principles, or lowered standards for expediency, and to-day the reputation of the Maison de Santé Protestante at Bordeaux, and its alumnae, is so high that its training school is much too small for the demands made upon it; but, with facilities for expansion, its work for the good of the community could be very greatly extended.

Some little time ago, as we then reported, Dr. Hamilton received a gift of a beautiful site for a new hospital at Bagatelle, outside Bor-

deaux, and sees her way clear for the erection of the hospital proper, but funds are not available for building the Nurse Training School.

Nurses in the United States, through the Directors of their National Associations, have therefore unanimously decided to raise 50,000 dollars (£10,000) to erect an attractive and comfortable Home for the nurses, and to include the necessary class rooms and laboratories for the teaching work. It is felt that they could not establish a more useful and enduring memorial to American nurses than by helping in this way to train, and send out, numbers of French nurses who will give the same kind of service to their country, and who will perpetuate the same high traditions of nursing. The Home will undoubtedly have a far-reaching influence in more widely opening up nursing as a profession to educated women in France.

The aim of the Joint National Committee is to secure the funds by December, and those who know the ability with which the affairs of the professional associations of nurses in America are conducted do not doubt that this aim will be realised, and that shortly on the soil of France—in which so many American nurses have been laid to rest—there will arise a memorial of which the beauty and stateliness shall be the emblem of the living work carried on within its walls.

Most sincerely do we offer our congratulations to Dr. Hamilton on entering into the reward of her labours, and the nursing staff of the hospital on having demonstrated to the distinguished American Superintendents, who visited the School during the war, the high standard of the nursing service maintained there, so that on their return home they reported on its value as a factor in nurse training in France in glowing terms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)