

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

FROM DR. ANNA HAMILTON, MAISON DE SANTÉ PROTESTANTE, BORDEAUX.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have so many things to tell you that I have postponed writing for want of time to write a long letter.

We have very much rejoiced at the triumph of your Cause; our nurses are so pleased that your thirty years' fight has ended with victory.

It seems incredible that an English nurse we had here recently, had never heard of the Registration campaign, and was surprised that we were so much *au courant* with it all. Neither had she ever heard of Miss L. L. Dock!

We have the great privilege of having Miss Elston for three months at the head of the Children's Department. We all enjoy so much having her with us.

In the B.J.N. of April 24th you very kindly mention the American Nurses' Memorial Fund which is being collected in America to be given to us to build our Nurses' School, and that it was voted with enthusiasm at the Atlanta Convention to reach 50,000 dollars (£10,000) with which at present rate of exchange we shall be able to build a fine school, with 50 small rooms for pupils and 12 for the staff, a splendid hall, the Amabel Roberts' Library (memorial to a nurse of the Presbyterian Hospital, N.Y., by her Alumnae), a large lecture room, a big dining-room to hold small tables. There will be two terraces on the roof.

Miss Clara Noyes, President of the American Nurses' Association, has instructed me to have the architect prepare the plans because as soon as the whole sum will have been collected, we must be ready to show the plans to Miss Alice FitzGerald and Miss Helen Scott Hay, who will be responsible for approving them. I am sure when our nurses are in the beautiful home at Bagatelle, a great many will come to train with us.

I have never told you of the splendid donation of 250,000 francs given by the father of one of our nurses. The Committee were asked to sell Bagatelle (the beautiful estate left by the late Mlle. Bosc to the Maison de Santé Protestante) for that sum. I was in despair and told many people about it.

Thus the father of a nurse heard about it, and wrote he would *give* the same sum of money on condition the estate was not sold. He lost a son—killed in the war—and the other became tuberculous and died after having been in awful military hospitals. This gentleman wants to help girls to be well trained as nurses, by having a really nice, well-equipped school, and hopes that many more well trained nurses will help to reform the military hospitals by-and-bye. It is a self-made fortune he is giving us—made by his own personal work. Is it not grand?

This gift made it necessary that our hospital should be moved out of the city to Bagatelle. It has been such a relief to me to feel that, happen

what may, the trustees can no longer be urged to sell Bagatelle.

We shall be able to do such wonderful work there. We shall have a great many more patients, as we are to have 200 beds; our hospital will always be full, as we shall receive patients of all creeds. The dispensary in that part of the town can deal with twice the number of patients. We are to build a solarium for children with plasters. Later, we hope to build a block for well babies, and a crèche also. At last we will try to build a sanatorium for T.B. cases, so as to get them out of their homes when contagious, thus saving the family. Our nurses do district work all over the town, and many more might be kept very busy.

The town permits us to go into the public schools and we have begun the work in two only. The others beg for nurses. We have such splendid opportunities. I am longing to begin it all.

This spring we made an experiment with six lectures on the "History of Nursing" on Saturday nights. The nurses mended their stockings listening, and then they had a nice tea. They were greatly interested. Next year we hope to have a fortnightly lecture, and a much extended programme all through the winter. In the report I am sending you you will see the statistics about the nurses' work and also my report on my visit to the United States."

We warmly congratulate Dr. Anna Hamilton that after arduous years of struggle her dream of a Florence Nightingale School of Nursing, placed on a sound financial basis at Bordeaux, has come true. We have told our readers of the spirited pioneer work of this wonderful woman, whose school we have often visited. We have told them of the romance of Bagatelle, and now, once more, those wonderful Powers influenced by longing and will have responded, and Bagatelle is safe. We do hope we get an invitation to the opening of the new school, made possible by the unity and co-operation of American nurses, as a memorial of the 284 nurses of the American army who died during the war. We think it would be very fitting that our National Council of Nurses should make a gift on that great occasion. Moreover, if Mlle. Minot would take domestic pupils, what a grand opportunity for an Isla Stewart pupil to be initiated into the *ménage* of a French hospital and nurses' commissariat. As the Isla Stewart Memorial Fund now has an income of £30 per annum, we must see what can be done in the future. Never shall we forget the Bordeaux *ménus*!

## COMING EVENTS.

July 19th.—National Union of Trained Nurses. "Unemployment Insurance," by Miss Florence, Secretary, Women Clerks and Secretaries' Friendly Society. 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.

July 21st.—Concert at 10, Downing Street, by kind permission of Mrs. Lloyd George, in aid of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Viscount Sandhurst will preside.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)