

COMITÉ AMÉRICAIN POUR LES RÉGIONS DEVASTÉES DE LA FRANCE.

SERVICE D'HYGIÈNE ET DES NURSES VISITEUSES.

It seems that no sooner is the bulletin of one month finished than it is time to begin another, but although we always have the daily round, the common task, yet we have each month something new, some signs of development, some proof of accomplishment, and in this respect the month of February is no different to the preceding months.

The question of nursing in France is so near to the heart of the members of the Nursing Department that they are inclined to think that their readers are just as interested and perhaps they have reasons to do so; for whether it be the peasants in the Aisne, the doctors at Soissons, the people in the office in Paris, the members of the Committee in New York, or even the business magnates of that great city, they one and all put aside what they may be doing and listen with a sympathetic interest to an account of what is being done for the health of the nation, no matter which side of the ocean is being talked about.

It has been Miss Walker's privilege recently to talk to all sorts of people in America, to address groups of ordinary individuals, and to pass hours in the company of the heads of the nursing profession in America and from them to draw courage and inspiration, and it has been her privilege also to return to France and to present to the various groups and individuals interested one of America's foremost women in the Nursing Profession, Major Julia Stimson, who is to be the link between America and France in the development of a school for Nurses in Paris, which will be the contribution of the American Committee to the raising of nursing standards in France. Whatever differences of opinion may exist between the Governments of France and America, there is nothing but sympathy and understanding where the Nursing question is concerned, and we can make no mistake in helping France to improve the health conditions throughout the country.

On Saturday, February 24th, the regular monthly meeting of the nurses was held at Soissons, and after the usual business had been discussed, Mlle. Monod, in a few well-chosen remarks, welcomed Mlle. de Joannis back from America and assured her of the support and loyalty of the Nurses of the American Committee in the accomplishment of her task as future directrice of the school in Paris. Mlle. Gally, the youngest member of the group, welcomed Major Stimson to France, and by the little speech that she made showed how our Nurses realise their responsibility to the future of their profession and appreciate the help offered to them by Americans.

Mlle. Guibaud, on behalf of the French Nurses, expressed their gratitude to the President of the American Committee, Mrs. Dike, for the initiative taken by our Comité on the Nursing question and

for continuing its support long enough to really accomplish something.

Meetings such as these make up for all the many little worries we meet along the way, and we are now looking forward to the glorious day when the school in Paris will be an accomplished fact and when we shall have made a real contribution to the future of the French nation.

We have not neglected the said daily round. Our Swiss party this month consisted of 40 children from Reims. The division of the town of Soissons into sections is an accomplished fact. One of our Vic Nurses is installed in a little barrack at St. Pierre-Aigle, and the medical school examinations are in full swing. There is talk of several new "consultations de nourrissons," and all the centres are asking for "bains-douches."

The life in the Nursing Department is a hard one, but no one can say that it is monotonous.

A CURIOUS FACT.

It is interesting to note that from no Training School in the Metropolis have nurses availed themselves of State Registration in greater numbers than from the London Hospital, although they were not encouraged to help their colleagues to obtain legal status before the Act was won. St. Bartholomew's Hospital nurses, on the other hand, who worked so ardently for many years for the reform, have shown a lamentable lack of support since the Act has been in force.

COMING EVENTS.

April 5th to 7th.—Annual Hospital, Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition and Conference, Central Hall, Westminster. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

April 6th.—Professional Union of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting, "Plane Tree," 106, Great Russell Street, W.C.1. 5.30 p.m.

April 9th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club. Debate: "That in the Opinion of this Meeting the Plays were written by William Shakespeare." *For*: Miss Birch. *Against*: Miss I. Macdonald. 8 p.m.

April 11th.—Royal British Nurses' Association: The Ramblers' Club. Lunch at the "Cheshire Cheese," Fleet Street, E.C. Write to the Secretary for further particulars, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.

April 14th.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council: Meeting to consider action in support of the Probationer's right to a "prescribed scheme of training" preparatory to the State Examination. 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. 5 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

'Tis friends who make this desert world
To blossom as the rose,
Strew flowers o'er our rugged path,
Pour sunshine o'er our woes.

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