

nothing prevent her return this time. They were due back on Monday, but instead of the children a card arrived, simply saying, "En panne en Alsace." Tuesday and Wednesday passed, and still no children. On Thursday, however, they arrived, much to the relief of the Committee and their mothers; and when the Directrice demanded an explanation, this is what she was told:

"It is very simple, Miss Walker; just as we were ready to come back to Soissons, everything packed up and the children all dressed, we saw a farmer's wagon approaching the camp full of potatoes—the first potatoes of the season—that the good peasants of Alsace were presenting to the children of devastated France.

"We did not know what to do, because, of course, we could not offend the peasants, so the Director said to me: 'Mademoiselle, the children of the Aisne have been very good, so we will keep them two or three days longer to eat the potatoes, *et c'est tout!*'"

The pathos of the story, appealed to me, but I was not so sure that this explanation would satisfy the mothers, who had twice gone to the station to meet their offspring. So I sent the nurse out to the group to make her own explanation. I followed her out, and she had just finished telling her story, but instead of being impatient, the mothers were all smiles, and said of course it was the right thing to do, and that they understood perfectly. *N'est-ce pas bien Français?*

Incidentally, all of the children we sent to Alsace came back in splendid condition. Evidently they do well on *pommes de terre*.

HYGIENE CENTRES.

In the beginning the installation of a Hygiene Centre was an event, and it still is; but not such an isolated one as formerly, for every month we have additions to report in this respect. The following are the latest:

PRÉMONTRÉ.—The Asile at Prémontré has offered for the use of our nurse a *salle de consultations*, which they have partly equipped themselves, and of which the Committee will, of course, complete what is necessary.

VAUDESSON.—The Commune of Vaudesson has also given a room to be used by the Nurse, and this also has been equipped and is being used.

COUCY-LA-VILLE.—Not having an empty room of any kind in this little village, the commune has given the ground, and the Comité Americain has installed, with the aid of the villagers, one of their barracks, which was formerly at the centre of Coucy.

SCHOOL NEWS.

Three years ago we started medical school examinations in our villages, and we are now reaping the harvest, first by the improved health conditions amongst the children, and second in the knowledge that as a result of our demonstration, medical school examinations have become a law for every school of the department.

Cours d'Hygiène.—After much thought and

arrangements between the Inspecteur Primaire and the members of our staff, we have arranged for hygiene courses in 58 schools. These classes are to be given once a week where there is a large number of children, twice a month where there are medium-sized classes, and once a month in the tiny schools. We regret that we cannot cover all the schools in our section, but no man can do better than his best.

STRASBOURG EXPOSITION.

Most of you know that we had an exhibit of photographs and statistics at the Strasbourg Exposition, and some of us have seen it, and can tell you that it looked good to us. But even better than this, it appealed to a great many people, and as a result we have obtained a "diplôme d'honneur," and big write-up in the *Revue Moderne* for October.

All this means, of course, that we are more likely to get the subventions we are going to ask for, and this is why we are pleased and proud.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

On September 15th we had our annual scholarship dinner, and it was a huge success. Given at Blérancourt, in the big *foyer* there, with the well-known Blérancourt hospitality, it could not help but be a success. And this year, instead of the usual uniform dinner, each person present was dressed in her national costume. You do not need to be told how becoming are the costumes from the various parts of France, and really we never had any idea that we were so good-looking.

Immediately after the dinner Mademoiselle Ahne left us *en route* for London, and a few days later Mademoiselles Guibaud and Cazaly sailed for New York. We have had news of all our girls, and they are well and enthusiastic about their work.

ALL THINGS COME TO HIM WHO WAITS.

We have all talked of and lamented the miserable conditions existing in the maternity wards at the Soissons Hospital, and we have even dared to hope that some day we might be able to help change these conditions. In fact, our hopes have almost been realised, because Mademoiselle Leveux has just been appointed midwife in charge, with a free hand to reorganise the service. Her task will not be a simple one, but we feel sure that she will succeed, and we all wish her the best of luck and the maximum of results.

EVELYN T. WALKER, *Directrice*.

Lady Susan Gilmour presided at a meeting of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Managers, when there was read a letter announcing that the late Miss Jessie Aitken, of Glenbervie, Larbert, had left the residue of her estate, estimated at between £40,000 and £50,000, to the Infirmary. Two-thirds of the amount, it was stated, would be held as permanent capital.

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