

in the army; as well as members delegated by the Conseils supérieurs de l'hygiène et de l'assistance publique. The Committee soon perceived that the work of the sections could not continue to be carried on separately without harming the ends to be attained. In fact, the work showed such close connection that it was decided in 1924 to do away with the division into two sections, the Conseil de perfectionnement being made responsible for all problems submitted for study by the Minister.

In the beginning of 1929, following the death of Professor Letulle, the presidency of the Conseil was entrusted to the distinguished Dr. Jules Renault, member of the Academy of Medicine, Technical Adviser to the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Welfare. A better choice could not have been made, as was later proved by Dr. Renault's constant interest in the promotion of all questions of public health and welfare which have come up since the war; the wise advice which his experience enabled him to give in all that concerned the preparation of hospital and public health nurses, and his great capacity as a modest and disinterested worker, have all been guarantees of his competency and success as presiding officer.

The Minister retained Mlle. Chaptal as vice-president, and as secretaries, Dr. Collin,† Chief Medical Officer at the Seine Mental Hospital, and Mlle. Delagrang, Directress of the Central Nursing Bureau.

From 1922 to 1926 some outstanding work was done. At its monthly meetings the Conseil discussed the curricula in use in the recognised schools of hospital and public health nurses. Because of the great variety of specialisation which had sprung up under pressure of the war and the post-war period, the Conseil was not immediately able to limit to two, or at most three, the different specialties of nursing. It was necessary to recognise the efforts of the schools under the Administrative Committee of Civil Hospitals and Institutions, as well as the schools of the three French Red Cross Societies, and also some schools under private auspices, and in connection with Faculties of Medicine.

The discussions of the Conseil resulted in amendments to the Decree, fixing the exact conditions in which the different types of instruction may be divided; how the State examinations are organised; deciding also the grades and distribution of the professional diplomas given by the Ministry. The examination of all the material submitted by the schools existing in 1922, or having been founded soon after, and requesting recognition by the State, occupied a great part of the sessions of the Conseil.

In 1931 there were in France:—

- 52 schools for hospital nurses;
- 21 schools for hospital nurses, and public health nurses specialising in tuberculosis and infant welfare work;

† Dr. Collin died in 1930; his successor is Dr. Pierre Marie.

- 1 school for hospital and tuberculosis nurses;
- 3 schools for hospital and child welfare nurses;
- 2 schools for tuberculosis and child welfare nurses;
- 2 schools for tuberculosis nurses;
- 1 school for child welfare nurses;
- 2 schools for male and female mental nurses;
- 2 schools for nurses for colonial public health work.

These statistics show the extraordinary effort put forth by the above-mentioned groups, whether private or public.

The schools are found principally in the cities where there are Faculties or Schools of Medicine, such as:—Paris, Lille, Nancy, Strasbourg, Rheims, Besançon, Dijon, Lyons, Marseille, Montpellier, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Limoges, Nantes, Rennes, Caën, Rouen, Tours, Angers, Alger, Tunis. In the other towns where it is obligatory to come to the above cities for State examinations, there are also recognised schools, such as in:—Amiens, Orléans, Colmar, Metz, Brest, Saint-Brieuc, Laon, La Rochelle, Le Mans, Grenoble, Nîmes, Béziers, Avignon, Angers, Alençon, Angoulême, St.-Germain-en-Laye, Toulon, Nice and even in Monaco.

Standard minimum admission requirements for students were outlined in regard to age, character, health and general education, and, on the whole, the recognised schools are applying these rules, and the standards of the students entering during the last years have been markedly higher. Conditions of housing, as well as the carrying out of the curricula, have both been given consideration by the Conseil.

In July, 1925, the work of the Central Nursing Bureau was opened in conjunction with the National Public Health Office. It is under the direction of Mlle. Delagrang, aided by several experienced nurses.† The fact that the nurses in this office have studied public health and social service from a technical and practical standpoint assures those who apply here for information or professional advice a cordial and understanding welcome as well as real assistance.

It was the duty of this institution according to the decisions of the Conseil to make the arrangements for the State diplomas, given under the waiver, a total of not less than 24,726 in the various branches of nursing. A card file has been made of the personnel in social welfare, public health and preventive institutions. Special attention has been paid to the employment of State diplomaed nurses in these institutions as well as the technical, economic and social conditions of their work and life. It also organised the State examinations and supervises their functioning, and thus is able to give valuable information on the whole progress which has been realised during the last years by the various schools of nursing, in instruction as well as in the home life of the students.

This impetus to the work in the various parts of the country given by the nurses in the Central Nursing Bureau,

‡ Milles. de Joannis, Séguenot and Lequeux.



Mlle. CHAPTAL.

President of the International Council of Nurses.
President of the National Association of Trained Nurses of France.
Chevalier of the Legion of Honour of France.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)