

who know it one of the grandest figures of private Assistance of our time.

Chaptal appeared at a time when all was being remade in a France which had seen the agony since the death of the Ancient Régime. But of the immense task of Chaptal it is only here related the trails found in common with Mlle. Chaptal in the organisation of the Assistance, the fight against misery and the social plagues. An important part of the work of Mlle. Chaptal was the monthly revue, *L'Infirmière Française*, founded by Professor Calmette, Dr. Lafosse, and Dr. Cruveilhier. It owed its impulse to Mlle. Chaptal, who from its foundation was one of the committee of direction, and from January, 1929, took complete charge.

In 1923, following the creation of a State diploma, Mlle. Chaptal founded the "*Association des Infirmières Diplômées de l'Etat Français*." Now a member of the I.C.N., the brilliance of Mlle. Chaptal attained its full height from the professional point of view in the International Congresses.

"At the International Congress held in Berlin in 1904 Mlle. Chaptal did not take an active part but gradually she became interested, and a short time after met Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, with whom subsequently she never ceased to collaborate with the object of perfecting and raising the profession."

At the Conference in 1907 the foreign personalities who took part in this international manifestation, thanks to her relations with the Director of the Assistance Publique, visited all the public organisations, which began to develop rapidly under the impulse of their distinguished Director, M. Mesureur, who collaborated closely with Mlle. Chaptal in the domain of social questions.

In 1925 Mlle Chaptal, Founder of the *Association des Infirmières Diplômées*, represented France for the first time, at Helsingfors, at the International Congress of Nurses.

At Montreal in 1929 Mlle Chaptal was elected President of the International Council of Nurses for four years.

The Congress in Paris and Brussels in 1933 remains in the annals of the profession as a glorious national triumph. The Congress was also grandly marked in the eyes of the visitors by a service in Notre-Dame, when the celebrant was Monseigneur Chaptal, Assistant Archbishop, who, instead of a diplomatic career, preferred the honour of serving the poor in the most humble faubourgs of Paris, where his sister, since the beginning of her career, engaged without ceasing in a fight against suffering and death.

The receptions in Paris and Brussels were marked by unanimous enthusiasm and the professional questions discussed, under the guidance of the President, attained their maximum practical utility.

Following the custom established by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick when she founded the International Council of Nurses a "*Mot d'Ordre*" for the next quadrennial period is given by the retiring President. The word given by Mlle. Chaptal in Brussels on retiring in 1933 was "Concord."

In 1937 Mlle Chaptal began the reports which she was to present to the International Congress of Nurses in London, and was looking forward, with *joie*, to meeting once more those with whom she collaborated across the Channel. It was her last work. Before the Congress materialised in July of that year, after much suffering, her sweet spirit had returned to God who gave it, and who will doubt that she received the Master's welcome: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

In that which concerns the "Assistance," Chaptal began by reorganising the hospitals. He created the Grand Conseil des Hospices, attending himself to all practical details. In the year X (1802) he founded the first national

school of midwives, that of the Maternity of Paris; then came the Central Pharmacy of Hospitals and the promulgation of the Pharmacopée, destined to amend the old Codex of 1748; then came, following very quickly, the charter of the Service de Santé. Thus were assisted the great administrative and technical framework of the "Assistance."

But this did not end the zeal of the great Chaptal from the point of view of health and its preservation. The private Assistance also received his encouragement. He helped the Philanthropic Society to open in each quarter popular soup-kitchens, re-established and subsidised the Maternity Charity, occupied himself with the "*Enfants trouvés*." He was actively interested in the social propaganda against smallpox, reorganised the Institute of Deaf Mutes, and reformed the "*Quinze-Vingts*."

The Minister also instituted a project which was also the object of the preoccupation of his grandchild as a delegate of the League of Nations, the reformation of an unfortunate class perhaps more to be pitied than others injured corporally, namely the culpability of childhood.

All had been forestalled by Chaptal, the same organisation of help against poverty, infirmity and unconstraint.

This brief enumeration will suffice to make understood the atavism which appeared in her as the instigator of so many charitable foundations.

It is an interesting study, for eugenists, in heredity, the philanthropic instinct inherited from her illustrious French grandfather, the talent for languages from her Russian mother who spoke seven languages fluently, and who handed on to our friend, her daughter, who spoke five languages perfectly, and others less fluently, the same talent.

The book is divided into five chapters, which deal with (1) Social vocation; (2) the fight against tuberculosis; (3) the Nursing Profession; (4) Maternal and infantile assistance and (7) Diverse works. In these several sections are described the forceful, effective and versatile work of our brilliant friend. All are most interesting, but that which interests us most as nurses is that relating to her work for the elevation in France of the Nursing Profession and the achievement of the State Registration of its members. To obtain the support and sympathy of the nursing orders was an achievement which few Frenchwomen could have accomplished, but for which she was eminently qualified being a devoted daughter of the Roman Church and the Sister of the Assistant Archbishop of Paris. It was a work of outstanding importance, worthy of the President of the International Council of Nurses, which position she filled with distinction from 1929 to 1933.

None who attended it will ever forget the spiritual beauty of the High Mass at Notre-Dame on the Sunday preceding the Congress in 1933, which, owing to her, was organised with so much care.

M. B.

## NIGHTINGALEIANA.

If you appreciate romance do not miss reading "The Love Story of Lady Palmerston," by F. E. Baily. The great "Pam" was well rewarded when in middle age the lovely "Em," Lady Cowper, became his bride. They remained lovers for thirty years! During these years the Crimean War took place, and it is a reference to Florence Nightingale, in this memoir, that is worth quotation—unsympathetic as it is.

"The Crimean War dragged on and the Guards grew beards, a most un-Guardsman-like proceeding—the most spectacular relics we have of that strange, unsatisfactory campaign, which yet struck the imagination of the British as few campaigns have done, are the bronze statues of bearded Guardsmen in Waterloo Place, together with that

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)