

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND MADAME LEBRUN TO THE FRENCH HOSPITAL.

The eagerly awaited visit of the President of the French Republic took place at the French Hospital, 172, Shaftesbury Avenue, on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 9.45 a.m.

The joyous cries of "Vive la Republique," "Vive le President," from the lusty throats of hundreds of school children waving countless flags, in which the Tricolor and the Union Jack appeared inextricably intertwined, heralded the arrival of Monsieur and Madame Lebrun.

Immediately the Mayor of Holborn, in full robes of office, and Monsieur Pierret, President of the French Hospital, moved forward to welcome the distinguished visitors, and escorted them up the steps of the hospital to the entrance hall, where all the Nursing Sisters of the Order of the Sacred Heart stood in three rows awaiting their arrival.

One sister had been chosen for the honour of presenting to Madame Lebrun a magnificent bouquet of roses — her favourite flower.

Monsieur and Madame Lebrun proceeded to the Committee Room to the accompaniment of flash lights from hosts of movie camera men and others, who appeared to lurk in every conceivable corner.

Here the entire administrative and medical staffs were lined up. These included the whole governing body of the Hospital, and the Mother-General of the Order, who had travelled all the way from Versailles especially to be present on this historic occasion.

Monsieur Pierret then made a very happy speech of welcome, to which the President cordially replied, paying warm tribute to the devotion of the staff.

This was followed by a presentation of Medals to Sœur Pauline, Sister Superior of the Hospital; Monsieur Jean Knecht, the Secretary; and four Honorary Doctors.

Visits were then made to the wards, where Monsieur and Madame Lebrun chatted informally with the delighted patients, and more photos were taken.

Finally, the sisters formed a guard of honour through which the President and Madame Lebrun passed on their way to their car at the conclusion of a most memorable visit.

The President was accompanied by the French Ambassador, Monsieur Corbin; Monsieur le Vicomte de la Panouse; and other distinguished personages.

"Ordre de la Santé Publique."

The new medal with which Sœur Pauline and some of the staff were decorated by the President, is a special medal applicable to the Public Health Officers only, and known as "Ordre de la Santé Publique." This is the first time the medal has been presented in England and it has only existed in France since 1938. The number is to be strictly limited. There are three classes:—

1. *Chevalier*. Presented only to persons who have done ten years or upward of Public Assistance.

2. *Officier*. Which is only bestowed after a lapse of at least five years after the reception of the first.

3. *Commander*. This is the highest distinction in connection with the order, and the classes correspond to those of the Legion of Honour.

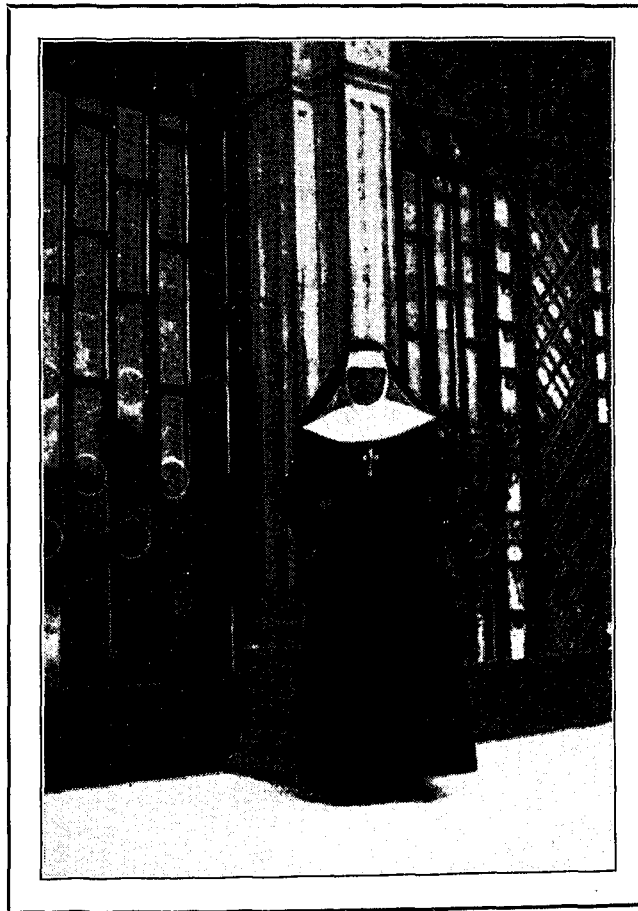
We congratulate Sœur Pauline upon well deserved recognition of her well-known services to her compatriots in England.

The re-election of M. Lebrun as President of the French Republic is warmly acclaimed in England. Those of us as officials of the International Council of Nurses, who in 1933 were so graciously received at the Elysée Palace, and took tea in the lovely gardens with President and Mme. Lebrun, have happy memories of an historic occasion.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

We seem almost to have forgotten that 1,500 Basque children of the 4,000 originally brought to this country in May, 1937, are still with us, and as their parents cannot be traced their future is uncertain. The cost of keeping the children has been 10s. per head per week. The total cost so far has been £158,000.

Now that the Spanish War is at an end, no doubt these children would be happier in their own country



SŒUR PAULINE.
Sister Superior of the French Hospital,
Shaftesbury Avenue.

UNDER NOURISHMENT AND RUINED HEALTH.

Dr. Valero, the head of the Spanish Red Cross, declares that under nourishment has caused terrible and widespread debility among the population. Statistics found in the Ministry of Agriculture at Madrid show that as early as 1937 the average consumption of food in Madrid varied between 6 oz. and 3½ oz. for each person. The result, says Dr. Valero, was a gradual deterioration of the senses of sight, hearing, and touch, and also a big increase in the tuberculosis rate. Dr. Valero adds that the doctors sympathising with General Franco's cause were responsible for more "casualties" than the Nationalist bullets, since they gave thousands of false certificates declaring healthy men to be unfit for military service.

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