

"The Committee is of opinion that at least four weeks holidays should be granted annually to trained nurses, and three weeks' holiday to nurses in training, with proper notice well in advance."

It is stated that the Committee drew attention to the evidence which they received about the monotony of the food provided for nurses in many hospitals, and suggestions were made in the report as to improvement in the service of meals, the provision of a choice of dishes, and the employment of a trained cook.

Routine Medical Examinations.

A point referred to by the Athlone Committee relating to the care of the nurses' health is regarded by the Secretary of State as a matter of great importance, and the Athlone Committee's recommendation that routine medical examinations should take place, not only before acceptance for training, but also during training and on appointment to the trained nursing staff, is quoted. Mr. Colville suggests that Local Authorities in Scotland might consider the introduction of such a system where it is not in force, and also the adoption of the practice followed in some hospitals that every nurse confined to bed or absent from duty for more than twenty-four hours should be examined by a medical officer.

A Contented Staff.

The Circular concludes: "The Secretary of State suggests that the observations and recommendations of the Committees on the matters mentioned above should be carefully examined by your Council with a view to the early introduction of such reforms as may be immediately possible. It must be a matter of concern to all engaged in hospital administration that the nursing profession is ceasing to attract a sufficient number of suitable recruits. The existence of an adequate and contented nursing staff is most important for the well-being of the patients in hospital, and a staff working under out-of-date conditions of service tends to be unable to perform, with maximum efficiency, the increasingly difficult duties which the advancement of medical science requires of it. The Secretary of State fully appreciates that an increasing number of Local Authorities have in recent years improved the conditions of service of their nurses, but he feels that much can still be usefully done on the lines of the Committee's recommendations."

PURSE STRINGS MUST BE LOOSENED.

It is stated that so far as its Municipal Hospitals are concerned, Edinburgh lags behind in the matter of nurses' salaries. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Town Council will lose no time in adjusting its Salaries' Scale to the lines recommended in the Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Representative Council Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women will take place this year at Cheltenham, from October 9th to 13th, and a most interesting programme has been arranged, both for work and play.

These meetings are usually instructive and socially enjoyable. One learns much from association with so many women of diverse character, thought and experience.

Cheltenham is a delightful centre for excursions, and apparently everyone is hospitably inclined.

The Public Dinner, to take place in the Town Hall on October 12th, will have the President (Mrs. A. F. W. Johnson) in the chair.

The surrounding neighbourhood is full of charm and many delightful excursions have been arranged.

LIFE OF JEANNE MANCE.

BY M^{lle}. MARIE-CLAIRE DAVELUY.

(Translated and Abridged by Richard Bedford Fenwick, from *La Garde-Malade Canadienne-Française*.)

"It was at this time still unheard of in France that a young lady should wish to sail overseas to go and live among savages."—*Life of Jeanne Mance*, 1854, v. I, p. 9.

I.

THE YOUTHFUL YEARS.

On September 22nd, 1653, the Governor of Montreal, Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, disembarked at Quebec with a number of colonists. He made a point, some hours later, of presenting to Jeanne Mance Marguérite de Bourgeoys, the future mother-superior of the *petites Montrealeses*. More noteworthy is Monsieur Paul de Chomedey's spontaneous remark:—

"Incidentally this young woman is yet another product of our Champagne, which seems likely to endow this place (Montreal) more richly than all the other provinces of France put together."

Paul de Chomedey hailed from Neuville-sur-Vanne, in the diocese of Troyes. Marguérite de Bourgeoys was a native of Troyes. Louis d'Ailleboust, of Coulonges, was born at Ancy-le-Franc. They were all good *Champenois* like Jeanne Mance, but she was from the far confines of the province, from the plateau of Langres, one of the marches of the east. The haughty shadow of a rocky promontory engirdles the old city of Roman Gaul built on its summit. Then it was renowned as one of the seven great churchly peerages of the most Christian kingdom, and rejoiced since time immemorial, in the privileges, royally granted, of an episcopal duchy.

Jeanne Mance was born at Langres on November 12th, 1606. She was the daughter of Charles Mance, procurator to the bailiwick of Langres since about 1602, but a native of Nogent-le-roi, and of Catherine Emmonot, herself the daughter of Laurent Emmonot, a former procurator of Langres, and Barbe Genevoys. She was baptised in the parish church of Saints Peter and Paul, and had as her grandparents Antoine Esprit, serjeant-royal, and Catherine Gillot, wife of Jean Haultepin.

As the Abbé René Roussel, director of the *Grand Séminaire* of Langres, has recently written:—

"The family of Mance-Emmonot, which settled in Langres in 1602, belonged in both its branches to the *bourgeoisie de robe* (professional middle classes)."

Twelve children were born to Charles Mance and Catherine Emmonot, six daughters and six sons, of which Jean was the second child, or *cadette*. A numerous family, as may be seen, in which those honourable traditions, that earnest and upright spirit inherent in the *bourgeoisie de robe* of France, drew its strength from an ardent catholicism that inspired even the most everyday actions.

As to Langres itself, the Abbé Rambouillet honours it thus "The Christian town *par excellence* of its time and a hearthstone of piety for the whole surrounding countryside." Since 1615 it had acknowledged as its duke-bishop Monseigneur Sebastien Zamet, a distinguished personage, well regarded and very much in favour, whether in ecclesiastical circles, or at court, or in the city of Paris. Gracious and diplomatic, he was gifted with an energetic disposition and a piety perpetually seeking expression.

Monsieur and Madame Mance-Emmonot did not neglect that most necessary duty towards their children, a strict and practical education with the Christian principles as its foundations. Moreover, their sons and daughters would, at an early age, have to familiarise themselves to some extent with the humane arts. To whom were Jeanne

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