

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE NIGHTINGALE SCHOOL AT BORDEAUX

In this department our readers have heard of the special crisis, or series of crises, that befell Dr. Anna Hamilton and her model school of nurses; first the bequest of a fine and most suitable estate in the environs of Bordeaux; then the great danger that the trustees might feel it necessary to sell the new land to factory enterprises and use the proceeds for current expenses in the present small, outgrown and totally inadequate hospital buildings; this, of course, *only* because of the terrible burdens resting upon France in every department of her community life, and then their agreement to wait for six months in order to make it possible for Dr. Hamilton to appeal for help. There is an American nurse in France, Miss Ellison, who has long been deeply interested in the nursing work of the Protestant Hospital at Bordeaux, and the latest word from Dr. Hamilton is that Miss Ellison has so well agitated the need for help there, that in England it became a question of live interest and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was chosen as an expert to go with Miss Ellison to Bordeaux and make a report on the situation to an interested society in London. A letter received from Dr. Hamilton said she was expecting them the very next day! We share to the full Dr. Hamilton's expectancy and hopes. We know from our own visits that the school of the Protestant Hospital is, of all the nursing foundations and undertakings in France, *the* one preëminently where the principles of Florence Nightingale are known by heart and are duplicated in the ideals animating the school. As a result, the practice and technique, the spirit and atmosphere are those of the best and soundest nursing. Only an insufficient equipment hampers this excellent school for nurses. Next month we may have more to report. Meantime we still hope that contributions toward the new buildings may come from some one in America. Dr. Hamilton's appeal has appeared in some of our daily papers, and it seems to us that among those whose religious creed does not permit the direct support of war some wealthy and benevolent friend might be found whose care for humanity would be met by the opportunity to help Dr. Hamilton, for never has a life of unselfish effort been given more intelligently and more fruitfully than hers in the development of this work. Her plans for the new buildings have been extended to provide a diet kitchen for the instruction of the pupils. On this line, however, most young Frenchwomen are already far better instructed than American girls, for delicate cookery is a universal science in France.

CANADA AHEAD AGAIN

The election of Miss Roberts MacAdams of the Canadian Military Nursing Service to the Parliament of Alberta, as one of two representatives of the overseas troops of Canada, is about the most modern thing that has happened to the nursing profession anywhere. This, it is believed, is the first time that a nurse has been elected to a legislative assembly by soldiers. Even Florence Nightingale never had so unique a distinction as this given her by the grateful troops of the Crimea, whose gratitude, shown in every possible way, was confined to the channels open to it in the Victorian era. Yet gratitude alone probably does not account wholly for the votes cast for Miss MacAdams, but the belief that she will make an excellent member of Parliament was present as a strong factor. Suffragists everywhere, as well as nurses, are rejoicing over this interesting event.

BAD TEETH AND BACKWARD CHILDREN

The Public Health Nurses' Bulletin, issued by the Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Association, says:

Just what difference it makes to children whether they have good teeth or bad teeth was illustrated experimentally in the Marion School in Cleveland, Ohio. All the children in the school were examined by dentists for oral disorders and forty of the worst cases were selected for purposes of experiment. The terms were explained to them. They were to permit their teeth to be put in perfect condition, after which they were to brush them three times daily, tooth brushes and powder being provided. Twenty-seven of the children conformed to the rules laid down, and were re-examined, physically and mentally a year later. The experiment demonstrated in its results that "by keeping the teeth and mouth in perfect condition, twenty-seven children almost doubled their mental ability and tremendously improved their physical condition," besides gaining moral regeneration in instances of truants and delinquents.