

examination only, but should recognise the practical work.

5. The nursing staff, permanent head-nurses as well as pupils, must be placed under the exclusive authority of a woman, herself a trained nurse, and endowed with the powers necessary to secure respect for the staff in her charge.

In the discussion M. Sabran said:

I share Dr. Hamilton's belief that a trained woman, a directress, should be placed over the pupils in the school; but I cannot agree that she should have any authority whatsoever outside of it; still less can I conceive of her having authority over the head-nurses in the wards, as Dr. Hamilton desires she shall have.

Dr. Felix Regnault, who is on the progressive side, wrote a lively account of this meeting to a medical journal:

. . . Shall we indeed confide our instruction to capable head-nurses and give the entire control of the pupils into the hands of a directress, a matron, as she is called in England? Never will our administrators consent to yield such powers. They are too fearful of weakening their authority. "There would be nothing left for us to do but to resign," said one, and by no means the least prominent. No, we will continue with half-way measures; we will retain the *chef du personnel* [a sort of boss or foreman of the nursing staff], the worthy representative of an administration which exercises the historic right of *cuisse* over its subordinates. . . .¹

Finally a decisive step forward was taken. An official document says: "The regulations of the first

¹ *Le Correspondant Médical*, July 31, 1903.