

tive is suppressed. Strangely enough, however, the nursing remains outside of this orderly plan. There is no nursing department; above and over all the nurses is no one woman. Within the hospitals, many of which receive one and two thousand patients, there is no woman superintendent. All supervising and head-nurses are directly responsible to the hospital director, who delegates the oversight of details to a male official called the chief of nurses. The incoming nurses, who cannot be called probationers, as they are engaged on a different basis, are selected, assigned to duty, disciplined, dismissed, or retained by men. Besides the grievances of which we have heard, there is another which even Dr. Bourneville overlooked—they are badly overworked. The wards are understaffed. Where English hospitals would have a head-nurse with six assistants, the Paris wards have two, or at most three, women to do everything.

Probably nowhere in the world can a more cheerfully hardworking, willing, and uncomplaining set of women be found than the *infirmières* of the Paris hospitals, and, with the wonderful ability and exquisite manual dexterity of the Frenchwoman, they learn great skill and speed of action and procedure—but all the niceties and refinements of nursing are lacking. The total absence of screens gives the keynote. Dr. Hamilton, with her usual fearlessness, attacked the prevalent methods of hospitals in an article from which the following extract is quoted:

It is a positive fact that in the hospital the patient is entirely deprived of moral protection, no matter whether