

Teachers to be formed, and its objects were thus defined:— "The aim of the union is to unite together, by means of local associations, public elementary teachers throughout the kingdom, in order to provide a machinery by means of which teachers may give expression to their opinions when occasion requires, and may also take united action in any matter affecting their interests. The character of the union will be more fully seen when it is fairly established, but the following topics will receive its immediate attention: (1) The revision of the New Code; (2) the working of the Education Acts; (3) the establishment of a pension scheme; (4) the throwing open of higher educational posts to elementary teachers; (5) the proposal to raise teaching to the dignity of a profession by means of a public register of duly qualified teachers for every class of schools." The presidential address shows that the Union has already accomplished some of these objects, and that the others are fast approaching realisation. It has provided a machinery for ascertaining the opinions of teachers on points affecting the progress of education or the welfare of the profession, and it has become the medium for giving public expression to the collective opinions thus obtained. It has brought its influence to bear on the Education Department, and the result is seen in better codes, improved school attendance, the promotion of several teachers to the inspectorate, and the definite promise of pensions.

A Deep at the Nursing World in Berlin.

THE work of the "Victoriahaus" for trained Nurses in Berlin, extends over a very wide area, and supplies a want which, in the German medical world, was largely felt. Perhaps as in England little is known of this most useful and daily increasing band of workers, it may interest English readers if we give a short account of its growth and purpose.

The present flourishing Institution is the outcome of a wish on the part of a few energetic individuals to provide the German public, and especially the poor, with properly trained and certificated Nurses.

Her Majesty the Empress Frederick, ever ready to help the sick, was one of the first promoters of the scheme, which not only bears her name, but has the advantage of her practical sympathy and personal help.

About the year 1882, a Committee of ladies was formed, the Empress at their head, to discuss the best means of bringing this scheme to maturity. The working of many large English Hospitals was inquired into, and what seemed most laudable in each method of training and administration, was incorporated in the rules of the new School of Nursing.

A German lady, who had devoted herself to the work, came over to England went through the course of training at St. Thomas's Hospital,

London, and is the present Lady Superintendent, in "Victoriahaus."

Once established, the "Victoriahaus für Krankenpflege," as it is called, soon assumed a definite and independent position; and the rapidity with which it gained ground, showed how large a field of action was open to such an enterprise.

The Institution is now in its eighth year, and its members are employed in no less than 17 different stations, besides private work.

Before speaking individually of these, let us pay a visit to the Superintendent or Oberin, as she is called, and ask her to explain the working of the training school, and the success of the Victoriahaus as a centre, where certificated trained Nurses can always be obtained.

With this visit in view, we must take a droschky and drive through the busy streets of the Prussian capital to the N.E. quarter. After toiling up a steep hill, we are set down at the massive iron gates of the Hospital, before whose portals are congregated a group of little street urchins, most anxious to catch a glimpse of what goes on inside.

II.

In response to the clang of the great bell, a porter appears and conducts us across a green quadrangle, around which several solid stone buildings stand.

Arrived at the nucleus of these buildings, we send up our card and are admitted into the Oberin's pleasant room. Here are many things to remind us of England; the walls are prettily decorated with pictures and brackets, there is a goodly supply of books and photographs, and near the window a substantial writing-table.

At this moment our hostess enters, and with a smile of welcome begs us to be seated and prepare for a cosy chat.

We learn that a candidate wishing to join the staff of workers, must be between the ages of 25 and 35 years, and must, in addition to the usual recommendations, present an account of her own life, composed and written by herself.

If she passes the Rubicon of one or two ladies who undertake to interview intending Probationers, after they have been approved by the Matron, the candidate must pay a sum of 300 marks (about £15) as caution money, but this rule is, if necessary, relaxed. This money is invested, and the interest received by the payee.

In answer to our questions as to the mode of training, and the hours on and off duty, we learn that the Superintendent is responsible for the technical teaching, in which she is aided by various Sisters, and

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