

learn domestic economy, and gardening by practice. The girls sweep, dust, make beds, cook, wash, weed, rake, plant, clip, sow, and water. They are almost always happy at their work, for everything is ruled by method, and over fatigue is avoided. In the afternoon the girls are drilled in all that a useful woman should know of needling. They darn, patch, piece, hem, gather, pucker, knit, and crochet. Various lessons and hours of recreation fill the rest of their time.

Sometimes there are treats: feasts and festivals among the Sisters, and, of course, the pupils come in for their full share of the recreations. The great Christian anniversaries, Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide, are always kept in Germany with much cake, coffee, and rejoicing. The nomination of a new Pastor, or new Sisters, the jubilee of a Ward or a Sister, all these are events that must be duly remembered. I have often joined such festivities, as a guest, and have always enjoyed myself, and noticed that others did the same.

Hymns, songs, cheerful conversation, short addresses, Christmas trees and coloured Easter eggs, excursions into the hills and forests when the weather is warm, with all innocent and well-balanced fun that may revolve round such ordinary centres. These things brighten the holiday of the Nursing-pupil, Probationer, Novice, and Sister.

For those whose *health* demands holidays, there are special arrangements, and any delicate novice who has done her duty may find that the "Mother-House" considers it a duty to give her sea air, or the advantage of one of the numerous mineral springs—free gratis—for as long as her medical adviser may deem fit.

Pupils who are sufficiently prepared pass from the "Deaconesses' School" into the ranks of the "Novices." Those who join as outsiders have to submit to a preliminary probationership of, at least, six weeks, in which those in authority take every precaution of testing the candidate's abilities and character. The length of this preliminary probationership varies greatly among the different orders. In some it lasts a whole year, during any time of which the unsatisfactory candidate may be summarily dismissed.

The training of the novice extends over three or four years. As in other religious guilds, talent and attention may curtail the term. Two years has been accepted as sufficient. "During a great press of work," a Sister told me recently, "novices have been known to pass after one year's training, but this was quite unusual."

During the time of training novices study practically and theoretically. They are required to attend a regular course of lessons every week. There is a lesson in scripture, a singing lesson, a lesson "On the Art of healing," and an instruction lesson given by

the Matron. In it the duties and character of the student's work is discussed.

Many Deaconess-houses, besides Kaiserswerth, receive and train nursing pupils. Though few begin the training quite so early, yet the candidate must be under 18, and decided, with full consent of parents or guardians, to enter upon Nursing as her life work.

The Deaconess-house of Halle has been mentioned as an excellent nursing school. Only a very limited number of pupils are received here. As is usual among all the orders, the pupils pay nothing, and receive every attention. They even pay a reduced railway fare. They are required to bring the same testimonials as the Probationers, and a similar trousseau. (I mention here that shipwrecked characters are never received as members of the Deaconess family. In the case of servants, who fancy a bad character has been given them unjustly, the test of a year's service in a Christian family of unquestionable integrity is required. If the family prove satisfied the servant will be received as Probationer. This led to an absurd popular mistake to the effect that *all* candidates for Deaconess work had to go out to service for a year.)

Until her 18th year the pupil receives no pocket money from the Order. The Matron and a Sister specially entrusted with the supervision of the pupils are responsible for their welfare, and they are taken great care of. After six months new clothes are instituted for those that show signs of wear. Should the pupil prove unsuitable for the work, her friends are advised to remove her. On the other hand, the institution requires a four weeks' warning from relatives who wish to have the girls home.

The order at Halle does not receive girls under sixteen. On entering they are at once employed, under supervision of a Sister, in acquiring practical habits of unselfishness among the old and infirm of the "Martin's Stift," a Home for Incurables.

One may imagine that these innocent child-Nurses are often great pets with the patients, and greatly serve to cheer their lives.

Pupils are frequently ideal types of what one fancies "Puritan Maidens" must have been. With their soft fresh faces, their baby gravity, and precocious reserve, their sternly simple attire, and the earnestness with which they strive to "justify their existence," at an age when most young things accept themselves as paramountly important, they have much of the pathos and poetry about them, that must have graced the children of our Commonwealth.

The thought of those lives would be depressing, if one were not sure that they were almost always placidly happy.

To show with what form of moral philosophy these children are familiarised, I quote an example set before the recruits of the Deaconess House in Halle.

. . . "She laid her hand to the plough, and then looked back—not forward. . . . Thus she became a poor spirited, useless person, and lived a burden to herself and others, without happiness, love, or hope. Do not resemble her, but look forward—upward—and a fair path will open clearly before you, and your life, as you walk thereon, will have lofty and holy aims."

A curriculum of Nursing exists in many of the Deaconesses' Houses for ladies, who belong to the Johanniter Orden (Order of S. John). The training for these pupils, who almost invariably belong to the

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