

bears the stamp of the spirit of its founder and constantly interested Protectress.

Steady progress has attended this undertaking. Victoria House, which began its work sixteen years ago with a Matron and three Sisters, points to-day with pride to its membership of two hundred and forty Sisters, and holds a position of the first rank, having charge of the nursing in several of the Berlin City hospitals, University and private hospitals in and out of Berlin, and sending nurses

to private cases among the rich and the poor. The first Matron, Fraulein Fuhrmann, by her energy and power of inspiration, unusual capacity for organization, clear understanding and warm heart, quickly brought the work to a high development. Her too early death was a deep loss, but her individuality has left an enduring impression upon the Victoria House Sisterhood. Many new and grave tasks have been pressed upon the Association. From all parts of Germany come urgent requests for Matrons and Sisters to conduct work in public and private institutions, requests which are often necessarily, from want of numbers, refused.

Victoria House is the home of all the Sisters, those who are stationed elsewhere as well as those who remain in Berlin. The Matron resides here with her staff of assistants; twenty pupils are always in residence. There is a study for these latter. There are the single bed-rooms of the Sisters who are at private duty or in

district nursing work, those employed in the hospital of Friedrichshain have their meals here, and all alike, in their leisure hours, may share in the comfortable sitting-rooms and reading-rooms.

The entering requirements are as follows: Age, from 20 to 30 years, with sound health. The candidates must be of good family, and well educated. The year of instruction is without cost to the pupil; she must, however, promise,

after the expiration of this year to remain three more in the service of the House as Sister. For security she is required to deposit the sum of three hundred marks. At the end of the three years this is returned to her with interest. This security may, under special circumstances, be lessened or remitted. After the first six months the pupils receive an allowance of ten marks monthly, and, as full Sisters, they receive at first a salary of three hundred marks, which is gradually increased to five hundred, in some cases six hundred, a year. They

have also free board, lodging, and laundry.

The Sisters have one free afternoon every week, and once in the year a vacation of three to four weeks.

There is no religious test made. Victoria House receives pupils of varied communions. After fifteen years' service, or sooner if ill-health has followed upon work, the Sister may claim a pension in accordance with the regulations.

In the first year the probationers are under



THE VICTORIA HOUSE, BERLIN.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)