

to live and sleep in a convalescent ward. These always comprise a big veranda, where, in fine weather the patients' beds are wheeled out daily so as to be in the fresh air and sunshine.

And there is no doubt that the early separation of the convalescent from the seriously sick results in their quicker and more satisfactory return to health and strength.

The nursing hours are very long, the day staff being on duty from 6 a.m. till 8 p.m., with only two hours off for rest and recreation. The night staff is even worse off, since they remain on continuous duty from 8 o'clock in the evening until 9 a.m. the next morning.

Once a week an off-day pass is given from 2 o'clock in the afternoon till 11 p.m. And the annual holiday of four weeks is unusually generous.

The Victoria House is at some distance from the hospital, so that exercise and fresh air are obtained in going backward and forward to meals through the park, though the privilege is a doubtful one in cold and wet weather. An admirable dietary is provided, although, perhaps, to the American mind, the menus would appear somewhat coarse. The predominance of sausage, smoked meats, and salt fish, however, accords with the tastes and custom of the Fatherland. Splendid coffee and excellent rolls and butter seem to be obtainable at almost all hours of the day and night. And there is no danger of any nurse or patient in a German hospital ever being reduced to short commons.

Excellent soups, roast and boiled meats, the inevitable rice and milk, brown bread, plentifully buttered and spread with pounded raw meat, are always in generous abundance in German hospital wards. An enormous amount of house-keeping, scrubbing, and sweeping falls to the lot of a German nurse. But this is no hardship. Domesticity is the keynote of the country. And the German woman—unless she belongs to a very wealthy and aristocratic family—has been taught from her earliest years to dust and sweep and take a large share in the domestic duties of her home.

Although it is not the custom for women nurses to be employed in the military hospitals in Germany, ample provision is made for the nursing of the soldiers in war time.

The Red Cross Nursing Society, which is a very powerful organization, possessing hospitals and training schools throughout the country, holds itself ready to put an adequate number of trained nurses in the field on the outbreak of war. Each nurse who joins and receives her training through this society is pledged to respond to a call to active service among the soldiers. She is bound,

also, in case of local or national outbreaks of epidemic disease, to do her nursing duty among the stricken.

This regulation was not in force during the great cholera outbreak in Hamburg in 1892. The scarcity of nurses at that time led the Government to exact epidemic duty from the Red Cross Nurses.

In one or two military hospitals in South Germany a few lady nurses have been experimentally appointed as sisters. And a scheme is on foot, in which the German Emperor is keenly interested, of following the custom of the other leading nations and adopting the system of nurse sisters throughout the military hospitals of Germany. If women nurses are proved to be the best the Emperor is determined to have them for his soldiers.

The Emperor has imbibed and inherited from his mother an enthusiastic interest in sick nursing. With his strong militarism it is natural that he should regard the matter chiefly from the nursing of the soldier point of view.

It is quite impossible to nurse in Germany or visit the hospitals there without being struck with the high and admirable qualities of the German woman. Her kind motherliness and inherent domesticity are the very best foundations for good nursing. Until quite recently the German nurse had but few opportunities of scientific and thorough training. Now that these are added to her own fine womanly gifts, we may confidently expect nursing in Germany to reach a very high standard.

Bearing in mind all that the late Empress Frederick did in her adopted country to further the progress of trained nursing, it is interesting to know that she was devotedly attended in her last long and painful illness by three nurses trained at her own Victoria House Nursing School. The King of England also sent out to his favourite sister a clever English nurse, whose services are invariably called in when sickness overtakes any member of the royal family in England.

Items of Interest.

Fifty more nurses are being despatched to South Africa, for work in the Concentration Camps.

Two new Bills in which nurses are specially interested were introduced into the House of Commons on Tuesday last, and brought up from the Bar and read for a first time. They were the Midwives' Bill, introduced by Lord Cecil Manners, and the Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill, introduced by Sir Charles Dilke.

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