

must be ready to leave for service at once. They have already been requisitioned for expeditions to Greece, Africa, China, and the Transvaal, and have proved themselves adepts at their work, often the more difficult of accomplishment because it was not associated with splendour, and did not bring glory in its train, but, on the contrary, was wearisome from its monotony and uniformity.

During the campaign in China the Central German Committee entrusted the direction of the Red Cross contingent to Dr. Küttner. It consisted of a Principal Medical Officer, six Sisters, four Nurses, and an Administrator. It worked for five months, from November, 1900, to April, 1901, during which time 832 sick and wounded were treated, amongst them thirty-six officers, mostly German. There were only four deaths, of which three were from typhus. In his report to the Central Committee, Dr. Küttner, who also worked in the Turco-Greek and the South African campaigns, said that he once more acknowledged the extreme utility of a staff of women nurses, but also arrived at the conclusion that only Sisters belonging to strictly-regulated associations and themselves thoroughly trained and disciplined should be sent to work thus on the battlefields of foreign countries. Given these conditions, the superiority of women over the other sex as nurses, from the point of view of cleanliness, order, sobriety, and devotion, was undeniable. He did not wish to say that it was possible to do without male nurses, as for the accomplishment of some tasks masculine strength was indispensable. In the South African war the contingent sent out consisted of three doctors and eight Red Cross Sisters. Although the Transvaal Government expressed the desire for a staff solely masculine, the Principal Medical Officer declared that it was impossible to dispense with women nurses, or to contemplate the work of an ambulance being carried out without the assistance of the Sisters, and that the doctors had become too much accustomed to their assistance to be deprived of it. They had scarcely begun work in South Africa when all the prejudices against them disappeared, and everyone was loud in praising the devotion and competence of the staff which composed the German Red Cross expedition.

The German Red Cross Central Committee has for a long time impressed on the local societies the necessity that nurses should be competent to give skilled care to the sick and wounded, and Dr. Colomb gives as an instance the methods of one of these societies as typical of the way in which their nurses are recruited and work.

The Ludwig-Wilhelm establishment at Carlsruhe, which is the Mother House of the Red Cross in Baden, is one of the principal centres of instruction for army nurses. Candidates must be between twenty-one and thirty-five years of age, and must give proof of their suitability as nurses not only with regard to physique, but also as to their moral qualities. If accepted, they pass through a preparatory six weeks' course, beginning on February or August 15th. After this preliminary trial the candidate becomes a pupil, but she has still to undergo three months of probation. If at the end of this time it is thought that she will make a good nurse, she enters into an engagement to serve the Baden Union for three years, or, in the case of her resigning without leave, to refund the cost of her training,

placed at 225 francs a year. These nurses are not only trained in the hospitals of the capital, but also in the great hospitals of Heidelberg, Mannheim, and Pforzheim.

They may belong to any Christian sect; but Jewesses are excluded, being separately organised in Germany. Although exempt from the severe regulations under which the evangelical deaconesses work, every nurse in signing her engagement promises to be "faithful to her word, and live in peace and concord with her colleagues, and by her holy and upright conduct to adopt as her own the motto of the Union, 'God with us.'"

During her first year the pupil nurse receives theoretical and practical teaching, and, if possible, special lessons in cooking. She receives only from twelve to fifty francs a month, and is free to leave on giving fourteen days' notice, in which case she must refund the cost of her board. At the end of the year, if qualified, she becomes a "lehrschwester," or novice. This is an important step in her career. She is formally received into the Order, wears a distinctive cap, and has a salary of 300 francs a year. At the end of the year, if all goes well, the novice becomes a Sister, and her salary is gradually increased to 600 francs after twelve years' service.

This last reception into the Union is solemnised by a touching and important ceremony in the chapel of the Mother House. At the same time, the new Sister receives the badge of her calling—namely, a brooch, bearing the Red Cross of Geneva on a white ground, and the motto of the Union, which she must always wear in future.

Every Sister is entitled to three weeks' holiday in the year on full pay, but the pay ceases after four weeks' absence. If she is further absent in the course of six months, her normal rise of salary is suspended for a year. This rule permits a nurse to remain at home some time, if family affairs claim her attention, without breaking her engagement with the Union. Five per cent. of her salary is retained so that after ten years' service she may have an annual pension of 375 francs if she is declared unfit for service. After twenty years' service she receives a pension of 500 francs.

At the conclusion of their training, the Sisters are sent to hospital, district, or private work.

Those who are most proficient in the art of nursing may attain to the position of Matron. They are consecrated at a special ceremony for this high office, which carries with it great responsibilities. A Matron has the supreme control of the organisation of the hospital, the direction of the teaching of her staff of nurses, the care of instruments, the superintendence of the nursing of the sick. Further, she should take the greatest interest in the pupil nurses, carefully watch over their health, and, by encouraging singing, music, and inoffensive games, render their residence in the hospital as pleasant as possible.

She should send a quarterly report of each pupil or novice to the Central Committee, but only half-yearly when their training is completed.

She is required to furnish information as to each pupil on the following points:—1. Temperament and character. 2. Intellectual development. 3. Health. 4. Professional qualifications. 5. Conduct in the wards. 6. Sincerity. 7. Loyalty and fidelity to duty.

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