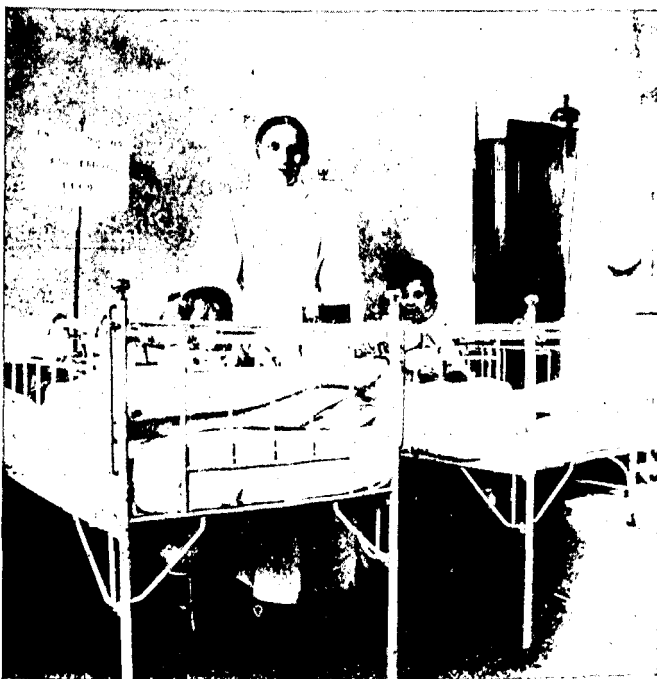


blandishments were smooth enough, no anger was warm enough, to get permission to occupy a delegate's chair if you could not show you were entitled to such a high position. At first, the perpetual opening and shutting of doors made it a little difficult sometimes to hear the speakers. Then stewards were placed on guard at the doors with orders to open them only at the end of a paper. Those orders were obeyed to the letter, much to the dismay of those who found themselves in the wrong hall, or who for any other reason wished to move on. One morning I saw a girl kept in this way; she was very disgusted and used every effort save force to get the door opened, but her gestures, rapid speech, anger, persuasion, explanation, &c., all were equally unavailing—she remained inside. So much for the officers. I said they were, of course, picked women, so unwilling was I to be convinced. But what of the audiences? These were composed entirely of women, with just a man here and there to remind us, I suppose, that they did still exist and held the chief power. There were women of all nations, but, naturally, the majority were German. They followed the papers with the keenest attention, not merely those in their own language, but also those in English and French. They caught up the points so quickly, and, what was more, they showed their appreciation or resentment not by the stolid silence or an occasional "Hear, hear" to which we are accustomed, but by a chorus of "Bravo's," or, should they not agree upon an *important* point, with hisses, that clearly indicated the interest and intelligence with which they listened to the papers and their keen perception of the trend of the argument. And these arguments, these papers, many, very many, of them had nothing whatever to do with the home, from a housewife's point of view; they were by no means confined to cooking, cleaning, sewing, and



SISTER AGNES KARLL AND MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.



A DEACONESS NURSE AT THE CHARITÉ.

servants, but included suffrage, morality, law—everything, in fact, which touches women, and therefore, directly or indirectly, the home. Since the Congress I have watched the women of Berlin going about their daily occupations. These German women have been advancing towards emancipation very silently, but also very tenaciously, whilst we of other nations were still thinking that the four walls of her home was the extent of her horizon; that her exquisitely-arranged linen cupboard, her good cookery, and model house were sufficiently soul-satisfying. To English women who think that they are so advanced I would say, "Beware! If we are to receive the suffrage before the women of Germany we must be more alert and smarter about it than we have been hitherto, or they will get in ahead of us." A Bill for granting the vote to women was presented in Parliament, and, needless to say, thrown out, two days before the Congress commenced. I think it will receive a little more consideration next time it is presented.

In regard to the hospitality, and particularly the cordiality, of the people of Berlin, I, for one, cannot speak too highly. I can only hope every stranger who comes to London may meet with half as much kindly consideration as I have received during a fortnight in Berlin. I return with a great respect for the women of Germany.

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