

direction of a medical man. Their services are to be paid for in all cases except the very poorest, when they will be supplied without charge.

The candidates for training must be not younger than eighteen or over thirty, and must present birth and vaccination certificates, medical certificate, school certificates, showing primary and secondary education, and character certificates given by the school where the education was received. (This is a good practical point, much more effective than the character certificate given by a clergyman, which is generally demanded of probationers in the U.S.)

Candidates who speak one foreign tongue are preferred (and, as a matter of fact, the liberally-educated young women whom one meets in this school all speak readily at least one, and usually two, languages besides French). The pupils pay for their two years' training. The fees are 800 francs a year, and, if they leave without fulfilling their obligations to the school, there are certain indemnities which they must pay. On the other hand, free courses are founded, by generous persons so desiring, for young women who may be exceptionally suitable for the work but without means.

The uniform is obligatory at all times in the school and when on duty.

The instruction comprises study in anatomy and physiology, minor surgery, massage, general, medical and surgical cases, children's diseases, the care of the parturient woman and new-born, care of the nervous and insane, skin diseases and elementary pharmacy foreign language and ethics.

After passing examinations at the end of the first and second years, the pupil then becomes assistant, or, one might say, staff nurse. She then completes three years of service, for which she has signed a contract, and receives during this time her board and lodging, with a salary of 1,200 francs per year. At the end of the three years she can, if she wishes, continue to engage by contract in three-year periods of service with the school, her salary rising by 100 francs with each fresh three-year period.

The "assistantes," or staff nurses, have one month vacation every year, and four days off duty each month, and, in case of illness, they are not only cared for gratuitously, but receive their salary for a maximum period of two months. If after this time they are still unable to work, they are eligible for an allowance of three francs a day for ninety days, and thereafter of two francs a day for a second ninety-day period. This allowance is drawn from a sick benefit fund established by the Association, to which membership with dues is compulsory from the time of entering the school. A pupil who does not complete her training, or who is dismissed, has her share of dues to this fund returned to her.

In the private duty service the calls must come to the Directress of the school. The fees charged are never less than ten francs a day, and are not

paid to the nurse, but are collected by the Association, monthly with long cases, otherwise eight days after the termination of the case.

The Directress visits the private duty nurses at their cases, to observe their work and to learn whether the patient and family are satisfied. She also makes necessary stipulations with the family as to the nurse's hours of sleep and rest, and it is required that the nurse shall either be received at the family table or served separately.

The branch of the service called "Voluntary Care of the Sick Poor in their Homes" is apparently the least successful; but, as it is organised on lines which could hardly possibly be successful, this is not surprising.

The plan is that volunteers shall present themselves as externes, to take the course of study and lectures during a year's time; then receive a special examination from physicians, and afterwards be inscribed as voluntary workers, and agree to respond for three months to the calls of the Association to visit the sick poor. They are supposed to visit daily, give their care to the patient, see that medicines are given, apply treatments, supervise the household, especially as regards hygiene and the needs of little children, and be the counsellors and friends of the poor. Although it is designed that such voluntary assistants shall have only one case at a time, yet everyone who has seen much of volunteer work will know that it is almost impossible to count upon it regularly. The Association plans to place a staff nurse in general charge of this volunteer service, and, in severe cases, to supply a regular nurse without charge. The three months' engagement with the volunteer visitor is renewable indefinitely.

With the regulations of the surgical hospital, or *Maison de Santé*, the provisions for the sick benefit fund and the list of members, reaching into the hundreds, closes this suggestive report of a work which may be compared to the breaking and preparation of new soil, and which should be estimated not solely by results already shown, but for its value and potency as an influence, as a pioneer of social reform in France.

L. L. DOOK.

A Nursing Home in Berlin.

On Monday afternoon, in the presence of a very representative assembly of English and Americans, the British Chaplain at Berlin, the Rev. J. H. Fry, formally opened a private hospital, which has been founded especially on behalf of English and American patients. The Institution will accommodate numerous patients, and is under the management of two English-trained hospital nurses, Miss Law and Fräulein Klettner, trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Many English people will doubtless be glad to know of a home in Berlin where they can be nursed by their own country-women.

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