

## International News.

### GERMAN NURSES' ORGANISATION.

*Address of President, Second Annual General Meeting, Berlin, March 30th.*

The second year of the German Nurses' Organisation brings full proof of the great need for such an organisation, and of its beneficial influence in German nursing conditions. Its development has been continuous, steady, and vigorous, the membership having increased from 307 on January 1st, 1904, to 571 on the last day of December, 1904.

Of these, 426 are active, 65 are passive, and 80 are contributing members. Among the latter are 9 American nurses and heads of training-schools, mostly of German extraction, and 9 physicians.

The organisation has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Herr Rittmeister a. D. Hugo von Praetorius, Member of Parliament, who was taken from us on April 12th last. Herr von Praetorius was one of the warmest friends and supporters of our cause, for whom indeed no trouble was too great if he could thereby further our efforts. We must ever be deeply grateful that through his influence in parliamentary circles we have been brought into relationships most important and helpful for us, and, further, that in his wife we retain an active and loyal friend.

The Organisation has taken an active part in public movements. Three open lectures were given under its auspices in the Victoria Lyceum, of which the first, given by Fraulein von Wbeczek, on "Organisation and Association from the Standpoint of the Woman's Movement," gave our members an insight into the important movements now going on, from which they in their secluded posts in sick-room and hospital are often so far removed. The second, by Dr. Israel, on "The Training of the Future Nurse," gave a clear statement of the standards which we must strive to attain in as near a future as possible, and the third, "The Condition of Nursing in America," by Miss L. L. Dock, presented a picture in which we saw much of what we are working for already attained.

The Organisation also participated in the proceedings of the International Congress of Women, and of the International Council of Nurses, both of which brought us a wealth of stimulus and of new relations.

That the general public now recognises the importance and significance of the two leading motives of our Organisation—namely, to gather into an effective association all of the self-supporting nurses of our country, and to encourage women of the best type to enter the nursing profession—was fully proved by the special attention given to the nursing question by the International Congress of Women during its Session in Berlin from June 13th to 18th. The

entire day of the 16th was devoted to this subject in the large hall of the Philharmonic, under the leadership of Frau Professor Krukenberg, and reports of extreme interest were read from England, America, France, Sweden and Italy, whilst Germany was officially represented by the President of the German Nurses' Organisation with a paper on "The Future Training of the German Nurses."

Various representatives of German nursing shared in the discussion, but the Matrons of our largest hospitals declined any participation whatever in the efforts of the woman's movement.

Also in the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held on May 17th in the Victoria Lyceum, Germany was represented solely by the Organisation, whose president had the pleasure of announcing to the English and American delegates that it was ready to enter into the International Council as a national body.

The friendly interest which was taken in our development in England and America before we were even conscious of it has been shown in various ways. The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland conferred honorary membership upon the president of the Organisation and bestowed upon her its badge. The Board of Directors of the *American Journal of Nursing* has presented the Organisation with its valuable bound volumes to date as a gift for our library.

In its internal affairs the work of the Organisation has increased enormously, and the officers, in addition to the routine business, have held 27 meetings in which to decide upon 254 applications, 15 of which were refused. It has only been necessary twice to call the Advisory Council upon questions of the exclusion of three members. In order to deal more efficiently with the increasing details and to ensure a quorum, the number of officers has been increased to seven.

The official badge of the Organisation has been adopted from a design of the Director of the Frankfurt Academy of Art, made after one used hundreds of years ago by a nursing order, and now adapted to and legally protected for our members.

With the constant increase in our secretarial and directory work, the narrow quarters of our old office hampered our work greatly. With the occupation of our new rooms at W. 50, Nürnberger Str., we not only have ample accommodation for all our present work, but also the privilege of adding to our quarters in the future, while the possession of a fine large room for gatherings, social purposes, reading, and sitting-room will enable our members to come together as they could not heretofore do. We hope also to be able occasionally to put up transient guests for the night, if our members in travelling need this hospitality. We bespeak the interest of our members for the complete furnishing of our club room, and most especially for our library, both of which will mean so much in the development of

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