

the private life and interests of our members, which, at first in the press of outer circumstances, have had to be left in the background.

Part of the secretarial work of the Organisation is the compiling of an enormous mass of statistics, rendered necessary by the requirements of the Berlin Department of Statistics and by our other public relations. Not all of the Sisters have understood the importance and necessity of filling in the details, and also the forms supplied every two years by the public department by no means now cover all of the new lines of work developing for nurses or created by our members. It is hoped that next year improved blank forms will facilitate this important but burdensome labour.

Three thousand four hundred and forty-five letters and cards have been received in the offices, and 3,600 written and sent from same, 1,315 of which were personally written by the President; 3,001 pieces of printed matter have been sent out by the Secretary and Bureau Sister. Besides this, with the ceaseless telephone calls, each Sister in the office has a regular office hour, as only thus can the demands of the day be met, and the necessary order and system with regard to the health of the Sisters in charge be preserved.

[Among the statistics kept are:—The exact whereabouts of each member, at home or abroad; the numbers in hospital, in private duty, in district work or other work; number of days' work done by each member, and kind of work done, as day or night duty, full duty, massage hours; baths and other treatments given (hourly nursing); visits (as inquiry or reports to physicians) and operations; and, further, the number of each one of these items for which full pay was made, for which lowered rates (as in hospital and district work), and for which no charges were made (as in district and hospital work again). These items are then all tabulated and summed up so as to show the total numbers under each head.

Further than this are most exact statistics showing numbers of members (of course, without names) who have the highest class of government insurance; those who have the lower classes, and those who are not in the government insurance. Further, the numbers who are financially independent, partly independent, or sharers in sick funds.

Further, the numbers who are insured in private companies for capital or annuity, for pension and invalidity, for invalidity only, for illness, for accidents; then numbers of those who have been refused by insurance companies, those who are ready to be insured, and those who are receiving their insurance payments].

When we consider the work of the past year, we must rejoice at what has been accomplished, while we yet feel keenly how much yet presses for which time nor strength are inadequate.

A large city hospital, the new Charité, has

opened its doors under most favourable auspices to our Sisters and pupils recommended by our officers. It also offers opportunity for post-graduate courses.

Our two first pupils have taken their examination in Frankfort. Yet when one sees the increasing need of nurses, and realises that within a few years new hospitals with at least a 3,500 bed capacity will be opened, one must say anxiously, "Where shall the needed number of educated women come from?"

And we long to so upbuild the conditions of nursing work that we could with clear conscience say to hundreds of young women, "Come and learn our calling, the most glorious, the most blessed that women can find."

The Women's Councils of many towns and cities offer opportunity for addresses and talks for propaganda. Yet it is too seldom realised that the present deficiency of nurses is the result of the inadequate system of management of our nurse-training corporations and hospitals. Then, too, one's courage sinks the more when one thinks of the Sisters who have grown old, or ill, or have fallen into necessity, and who look to us to help them!

The Emergency Fund and the Convalescent Homes plans have not been neglected, but have been quietly considerably advanced, only that the need comes faster than the help. The Committee on the Emergency Fund has been formed, and an appeal will shortly be issued. Then each of us must help it to reach warm hearts and willing hands. We have also opportunities offered us, in co-operation with other self-supporting women, to obtain building lots in Drossen, and a most beautiful site in the woods in Vogelsberg. But to bring these possibilities to reality calls for so much time, strength, and energy, and one meets actually so much indifference and apathy, that one's force would fail if it were not that in the human soul hope and belief in divine ideals are insurmountable, and conquer human weakness.

We must believe that the next year will see our hopes and plans greatly advanced, and we must remind our members that an independent and self-governing association such as ours brings with it not only rights, but also duties and responsibilities. Each one must do her best to increase our membership. Our treasury, so far as our necessary expenses go, is in a most healthy condition, with a small surplus. But our office expenses will increase rather than diminish, and, while our membership dues will suffice to cover them, we need to add in every way possible to our fund for the aged or afflicted Sisters.

AGNES KARLL, President.

We are asked to say that the above is a somewhat condensed form of Sister Karl's address, some details of merely local interest having been omitted. The paragraphs placed in brackets have been summarised by the translator.—Ed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)