

what these five years meant for German nurses. Thirty members in the beginning, we are now more than 1,800, over 1,600 of them nurses. Some of you saw our small office in 1904, two little rooms in two different stories, as we began with only one. Now we have a large flat of seven rooms, and a smaller one with five, five Sisters living in the house. Eight Sisters and two secretaries for type-writing and stenography, register work, and so on, work with me, and one more must come in summer for the holidays, and the daily increasing work afterwards. The financial side of our work is very encouraging for every self-depending body. The first year we had an income of 3,916 marks, and a balance of 334.35 marks was left, the last year the income was 17,116.55 marks, and a balance of 1,146.39 marks was left. Our Journal did splendidly with an income of 4,646.37 and a balance of 355.36 marks at the end. Is not that fine? This year every second member gets one sheet more. Of course, we could never have done so well without our true friends. One of them—I know she would not like me to mention her name, as it is so well known to all of us—gave us for ten months 25 dollars every month, and tided us over the worst part of our work, making it possible to get one assistant more, when we needed it most.

It is very hard to find amongst German nurses the right help for our office work. They are not used to that sort of work, which needs a good deal of technical training and insight, and so, when we had the money, we had not at once the right sort of worker, and I am sorry we found it almost too late for some of us. My best help through three years broke down in July, and I hope she will be able to come back in March, after a severe and painful illness. She had to pay badly for putting her whole soul into her work. Ill-health is the worst drawback in the life of nurses, and I am glad to say that our fund of support never failed us from the beginning. We paid more than 4,000 marks in two years, one elder sister getting a small rent every month just to keep her with her small means, but only that. The last days before our anniversary brought the long-expected sanction for our fund of support, and we are proud to start it now in full form with over 12,000 marks, as we got a legacy of 8,000 marks last year. As most of our nurses are in such bad health from overwork that no insurance company can take them now, we must make our fund at least as many thousands to keep them all from starvation later on. I trust the money

will come when we need it, as all other things did, when we tried hard. We are incorporated, we have our own Journal with an edition of 3,000 since the beginning of this year; nobody can fight our badge any longer; we have a sort of State registration, which we have only to fight against to get it made better, so I should think, we may hope that other things we need will come some time. Our State registration means a hard task for our office just now. The time of grace elapses on the 1st of June, 1908, and every nurse who has been five years in nursing work, and most with two years can get on to the Register without an examination till then. But we are to prepare the rolls of our members for the Minister, and must be very careful not to have anybody on them about whom we are not quite sure as to moral and professional qualities. It is very funny that now we really keep the fate of our members in our hands, but later on, when the examinations begin, the Matrons have not a word to say about the value of the pros., just three medical men, one from the Government, two from the Hospital, have to decide. But, after all, they are allowed "to ask the Matron about the pros." How do you like that? So you will understand how carefully we do our share of work now. One of us has been writing the lists since November, and cannot finish till April, and then my work on them begins, and I am not sure if I will get my sorely needed holiday in May and June if I have not finished. From next year we will not take one active member who is not registered. As registration is optional in Germany, thanks to the religious institutions, the State likes us very well for this step of enforcing its standard. Most professional institutions tried first to evade it, I am sorry to say, the Red Cross, too, and so the Government is ready to acknowledge the help we give to their law by our strict rule. We made two of our hospitals ask for the right of their own examination committees. The training is only one year for the State examination, but as all our large hospitals want to keep the pros. for three years, and make them contract for this time, I am sure, we will make them in time train the whole time. Some of our hospitals begin with two years right away. On the 1st of April, we have to staff another hospital in Alsatia, near the French border. It has no school now, but I hope it may get one very soon. So you see life is worth while sharp as the battle may be, and should it cost my life, I know what I pay for.

AGNES KARLL.

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