

aristocratic and professional classes, extends over six months. They generally enter prepared by excellent private training. Their expenses are paid by the Order, which claims their future services for the "country." They bind themselves to serve the people whom they will hereafter nurse "for no reward," their impulses being supposed to be in part religious, in part patriotic.

"They are our reserve volunteer force," say the Deaconesses. At the head of the Order stands the Grand Master. He is assisted by Knights or Brothers of the White Cross (so called from the badge of the white cross on a black field).

The old Order of S. John had been dissolved in the year 1826. After the terrors of 1848, Prussia's misery inspired King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. to organize a patriotic knighthood (1852). The duties of this Order were to be the duties of practical Christians. They were to try to remedy social defects, to fight the misery of the times, especially among the sick, and in time of war. The Order was divided into evangelical and catholic members, (the latter still sometimes called Maltese). The King of Prussia had power of nomination.

The present Grand-Master is Prince Albrecht of Prussia, Prince Regent of Brunswick.

Nursing candidates of this Order must be over 20 and under 40 years of age. Having received their training and diplomas, they return home, where they must be always prepared to obey the summons of the Grand-Master in time of war or epidemic.

Then they serve either in the hospitals from which Deaconesses have been summoned to the scene of the war, or they are engaged in institutions of their Order.

Should a Sister of S. John be called to the immediate scene of action, to attend to the wounded, she would be required to wear a *red* cross, in place of the white cross of her badge.

Only the Order has the right of disposing of its Sister's nursing energies, but the latter are, in all other respects, free agents of their movements, though they are requested to give notice of any change of address.

They may marry (when their duties to the Order are restricted); they may join the Deaconesses' Order; in fact, they are encouraged to do so. They may, of course, nurse their friends, and help the Deaconesses in hospital, after giving notice to the authorities of the Order.

A number of "Knights" are appointed "Guardians" of the Sisters in different districts. These gentlemen are chosen from among the highest in the land.

At present, the Order of the Johanniter counts a reserve force of 146 Sisters, "Serving Sisters," as they are sometimes called, because they work subordinate to the Deaconesses. The greater number of these Sisters are noblewomen.

Quoting from a paper issued by the authorities of the Johanniter Order: "Genuine complaints of Probationers respecting the treatment in the Deaconess-houses, do not exist. On the contrary, they are usually glad to return to the hospitals, to act as auxiliaries, to renew valued companionship, and to perfect themselves."

(To be continued.)

A Holiday Month

AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

BY M. K. DOWDING.

MIDSUMMER is within measurable distance. Every Nurse is thinking of her summer holiday, her turn is coming soon. What will she do with her few weeks? so important in their bearing on a long year's work. A few hints from an old campaigner may be useful.

First, as to clothes. Take one decent "turn-out," and, for the rest, the oldest and most venerable habiliments you have. Nothing weighs on the mind so much, and detracts from happy holiday meanderings more than considerations about clothes, the state of the clouds, and the prospect for your Sunday bonnet, the state of the sand or roads, and your best skirt. Above all, abhor new boots.

Secondly, where to go? This is, of course, a matter very much of taste. For many reasons, and especially if ways and means have to be considered, far more fun is to be got from a little sandy nook or sheltered hill-side than a great noisy watering-place. Some, however, do not think so. For them, the Nurses' boarding house supplies their every need, and the conversation and acquaintances are a source of pleasure and amusement; or a lodging-house is chosen, carefully, of course, for how much depends upon it; sadly, too often, besides the hire of rooms, the "Horse leach hath three daughters crying give, give, give." But to return to those whose tastes will lead them "far from the madding crowd." In a small place, a village inn is not a bad *locale*. In Devonshire and Cornwall, Yorkshire or the Lakes, and still more in Scotland, there are dozens of little inns where ladies—two or three together—can be perfectly at ease; or, again, a very pleasant independent way is for two friends to take a cottage. Up and down the country, in unfrequented places, there are many ladies owning such, who are most anxious to get quiet tenants during their summer jaunt. A coast-guardman's cottage, or a decent widow's is not to be despised, and, from personal experience, they can be recommended. Sometimes a little servant can be had, or perhaps a neighbour near will arrange to do the needful. But, failing these, it is quite possible, and sometimes far more comfortable

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