

could hardly come within the range of the usual Nurse of thirty years of age. But still, the newer methods and wider knowledge of the present day have left her and her fellows far behind, and out of the race. But if the first pass unexplained, and the latter are kept wrapped away in secret from all the younger women, in what way are these the better? In what way is the ordinary Nurse of to-day's Hospitals an improvement on her ancient predecessor? In point of general culture probably she may be. In general education possibly, as well; though there are Nurses, very many, who cannot spell without a dictionary, and to whom arithmetic and other sciences are almost unknown. What is really needed is an enforced Standard; for first year, second and third year, Probationers. This should be uniform throughout the country, as are the examinations of the College of Preceptors. Practical and theoretical proficiency should equally be attended to. Some acquaintance with Latin and elementary chemistry might be rewarded by extra marks. Ignorant, careless, and illiterate women would be thus expunged from the ranks, to which they bring disgrace; and an encouragement provided for honest effort under frequent difficult and discouraging conditions.

M. K. DOWDING.

Our Foreign Letter.

A NURSING COLONY.

(Continued from page 84.)

THE present Mother-House of the Deaconess-Nurses of Westphalia is in Bielefeld, and forms part of the congregation of Zion. It is a charming mansion, called Sarepta. It is built in Gothic style, surrounded by pleasant walks and shrubberies. Its stately and artistic aspect is apt to surprise visitors, whose admiration will certainly not be damped when they have seen the interior. All details have been carefully planned, and the whole has been presented to the Sisterhood by friends of the institution; each shilling devoted to the building, furnishing, and decorating of Sarepta having been specially given for the purpose to which it was devoted.

The chapel occupies the centre of the building. In the south wing are wards for female patients, in the north, for male. The large windows of the chapel open on to four adjoining halls. These are opened during service, so that patients who are willing and able can gather here to listen to the service. Many are carried in, others occupy easy chairs or lounges. They join in, as far as they can, with the general congregation of the chapel, by whom they are unobserved. There are several striking memorial windows in the chapel. The central one represents the risen Saviour holding a symbolic banner of victory in his

The Link Shell Truss Co., 171, Wardour Street, London, W., have a new truss, it is claimed that by this method of manufacture a truss is provided which will be more comfortable than the one in ordinary use and better able to adapt itself to the various movements of the body, especially if these are of a sudden character. The truss is fitted with a hip-joint regulator by means of which the pressure is increased or diminished as required and with a soft hollow shell pad perforated for ventilation. The Truss as thus completed is an efficient one.—*Lancet*, August 4th, 1894.

hand. A peculiar pathos attaches to this beautiful window, and to two others, which were given by a widow in memory of an only son. The history of the chapel bells is interesting. They are composed of coins collected for this purpose by children, in such quantities that the silver and copper metal sufficed for two bells, one of which is called "Sarepta," the other "Bethel." Besides ringing for service, the bells toll three times for every death in the community. In 1893 the death-bell tolled 165 times.

In the right wing we find a sewing-room, and bed-rooms for twelve sewing-maids, each of whom is suffering from some physical defect. They are occupied in making uniforms for the Sisters. Besides the female wards already mentioned, this wing contains a dispensary, laboratory, various private rooms for Sisters, besides a large Sisters' dining-room, sitting-room and Sisters' ward. The Sisters' assembly-room is just above the entrance; the Sisters' bedrooms are situated in the attics.

In the north wing, as well as in the south wing, there are several private rooms for first and second class patients.

The cases treated in Sarepta are of various kinds, including surgical cases.

From both wings of the building bridges establish a direct communication with the adjoining forest, so that convalescents can walk out, or be wheeled out, into it with very little fatigue or trouble.

There are 700 female and 250 male Deacon-Nurses in the employ of the community of Zion. Their labours are divided among 200 stations for the Deaconesses (including all the houses of the community in Bielefeld), the latter work in 40 local and 59 outside stations. Only 25 years have passed since the first four sisters were engaged for the service of the epileptic patients of Bethel. The words of Pastor Disselhoff on this occasion have proved prophetic. He chose for the text of the inauguration service the 60th chapter of Isaiah, 22nd verse: "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time."

The Sisters, among whom was the present Matron of Sarepta, "Emilie Häuser," had been sent from Kaiserswerth as a loan to the young institution at Bielefeld. From the very first the settlement gave promise of success, and kept that promise. The number of patients and Sisters grew steadily year by year. Each year has its record of new-gained power and prosperity, of new acres acquired for Bethel, of new buildings rising around it. Like other Nurses of that time, the Sisters of Bielefeld had their working powers severely taxed during the Franco-German war of 1870, especially as an epidemic of small-pox which prevailed at the close of the year increased the demand for skilled Nursing—a demand which fell far short of the supply.

Educated capable Nurses are still wanted in Germany. Twenty-four years ago the want was terribly felt, and the noble-hearted Nursing amateurs—often ladies of high position—who volunteered for the most subordinate and trying auxiliary duties from sheer patriotism and humanity, deserve something better than a sneer for the failures of nerve and strength; that

Reduction of Munson Typewriter prices from £21 to £12 12s., Odell Typewriter reduced to 63s., particulars of both free.—L.L. SHELL TRUSS Co., Surgical Instrument Makers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)