

rarely have more than one or two of the members disengaged, and often every member is at work. This makes it all the more important that the Secretary should have an immediate answer when she telegraphs, or sends by messenger, a "call" to a case. I must, therefore, impress upon you to reply *immediately*, either by telegram or by messenger, saying if you are unable to take the case—or, if you can go, stating the time you expect to reach the patient's house, so that we may at once communicate that fact to the doctor in case he wishes to see you and give any urgent instructions. You doubtless know that by our unique system we are in direct communication by telephone with every part of London, but this valuable organization can not be thoroughly utilized unless the members assist the officials by answering calls immediately as I have suggested. Indeed, as the Society grows in numbers, it will become increasingly important for the members themselves that the officials should receive the immediate notification I have asked for, so that the Nurses may not lose cases in consequence of avoidable delay.

MATRONA.



Our Foreign Letter.

GERMAN NURSES.

V.—ROMAN CATHOLIC NURSES.—Continued.

I recently visited a charming Hospital of the Order of St. Vincent, in Hanover, the Sisters of which had originally been connected with the famous centre of that name in Paris. The Mother Superior told me that about 600 Sisters were connected with this branch of the Order, and that these Sisters worked in districts, asylums and hospitals.

The building in question stands on the margin of a forest, and is surrounded by lovely grounds. No infectious cases are taken in, and the patients (with one or two exceptions) are paying patients. They are divided into several classes, the lowest contribution being 1s. 5½d. a day. The Hospital has no resident physician, and doctor's fees are not included in the payment made. Each patient on entering chooses his own medical adviser.

The arrangement of the Hospital is exceedingly pretty and home-like. All wards or private rooms are hung with pictures, some of these being really fine engravings from famous paintings.

Third-class patients share general wards which are airy and comfortable. Two second-class patients share one large room, while the first-class patients often occupy perfect snuggeries of brightness and good taste.

I remarked upon the artistic arrangements of some of these rooms. "Yes," said the Mother-Superior, "we find that pleasant sights are good for sick people."

In no Hospital I have hitherto visited was the presence of surgery and medicine less obvious. The tools and mediums of healing were evidently not thrust before the sufferer's eyes more than was absolutely necessary.

The church and several side-chapels dedicated to various saints were underground. As is invariably the case, they were lovingly decorated and cared for.

On passing into the receiving-room on our way out, we found a Sister kneeling before a baby invalid and its mother. The delicate little mite was a new patient, and Sister was trying to "make friends" with it before the inevitable separation from "mother" came.

Personal interest in their charges characterizes the Sister of Mercy above all other Nurses.

During the campaign of 1870, it often happened that Evangelical Deaconesses and Sisters of Mercy worked side by side among the wounded.

VI.—GUILDS OF NURSING.

Numerous Nursing Unions in Germany have the professed object of training Nurses for the army and the country under conditions that promise permanent advantages to the Nursing staff.

As a rule, these Nursing guilds do not exclusively patronize the members of any one religious sect. Some of them accept the badge of the Red Cross, thus professedly devoting themselves to humanitarian and patriotic interests.

Among these we class the *Schwesterverband* (Union of Sisters), of the Clementinenhaus of the Province of Hanover. The main centre of this union is a fine Hospital in the town of Hanover. The object of the union is to train Christian women and girls for sick nursing in hospital, home and war—not necessarily as *Sisters* of the Clementinenhaus, but as handy Nurses or auxiliaries under any condition of life. Thus the Nursing apprentices of the Clementinenhaus are divided into two distinct classes—probationers and pupils. The former who enter as candidates for future Sisterhood have to answer a string of questions somewhat similar (in an abridged form) to that set by the Deaconesses-Institutions, although they are free to follow the bent of their own religious persuasion (so long as they be professed Christians). Their age may vary from 20 to 70 years. Actual probation lasts a twelvemonth, after which time the Probationer is bound to the Union for three years by the following declaration:—

"As it is my wish after a year's Probation to enter the Union of the Sisters of the Clementinenhaus, I promise, according to the statutes of the house, to belong to it as a Sister for three years from this date, to devote myself to it during this time *with all earnestness, warm devotion and faith*, as before God, in peace and in war, in hospital work and in private nursing, to give all my powers exclusively to the institution; to obey the rules regulating my election as a member of the Union of the Clementinenhaus as well as all general statutes; to obey conscientiously the orders of the matron and doctors; to be strictly silent to outsiders concerning the affairs of my profession, of the house, of my patients and their

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