

When Germany became Protestant, although ideas and beliefs were altered, forms were but slightly so, for forms simply represent custom which we all know changes slowly.

So in Germany to-day may be found religious orders, Evangelical or Lutheran, which are in all ways as strict as the Roman Catholic sisterhoods. The obedience required is as absolute, the members or deaconesses give up their whole life and all personal property, and are not allowed to marry. Others, again, still religious and wearing the same conventional dress, are less rigid; the nurses are not bound for life, but may leave and marry. Still, the rules while in service are yet very strict, and the daily life could hardly be distinguished from that of the others. They never lay off their uniform, do not go to places of amusement, and have no choice as to their work, but go where they are sent and do what they are told. They work in the church hospitals, do district nursing, or are sent to private duty. Though there is always at their head a head sister or oberin, yet the real control of these orders is in the hands of the clergy or "pastors."

On the street, whatever their uniform may be (usually not black), they may always be distinguished by the form of their white starched linen cap, or more properly hood, which comes down over the ears and ties under the chin. All nurses in Germany wear street uniforms, but the little hoods or bonnets of the lay nurse or "sisters," do not cover the ears.

As the deaconesses grow old they are cared for by the mother-house, and as they have no future to worry over, one usually sees on the faces of these women the sweet, serene, placid expression typical of conventual life. One finds, too, in talking with them that the problems of to-day, as we nurses feel them, are as totally unknown to them as life in another planet. All things are very clear and simple to them. People are divided into "good" and "bad"; those who will work and those who will not, and all that goes wrong is ascribed to Providence.

We can understand them, but they could not understand us.

Then there are in Germany, next in point of freedom, the organizations of lay nurses connected with large general hospitals. The finest and most noteworthy of this class are the Hamburg Nursing Sisters, at the great hospital in Eppendorf, and the Victoria House Sisters, in Berlin.

Of these two the Victoria House is the most "free" in this respect, that no religious test is made; whereas the Hamburg Sisters are required to be Lutherans, though exceptions may some-

times be made. As these two great schools are much alike in their organization, I will describe them together, and it will be seen that, though not under the control of the clergy, they are still close corporations, thoroughly organized for work and mutual benefit, but allowing little latitude for individual freedom, the control all being from above and the benefits compulsory. The Eppendorf nurses belong to the Nursing Association (Schwestern Verein) of the Hamburg State Hospitals. The objects of the association are stated to be: (a) To provide a school for training nurses, in order that the sick and wounded in peace and war may have skilled care; in time of peace the association undertakes the care of the hospitals of the State of Hamburg, primarily the New General Hospital, at Eppendorf. (b) To bind the graduates (Schwestern) together in a close union. To this association money was given by a wealthy citizen of Hamburg, to build the "Erica" house or nurses' home.

The officers of the association comprise various physicians connected with the medical schools, an administrator of the fund donated toward the nurses' home, the director of the New General Hospital and the Frau Oberin or superintendent of nurses, in an advisory or consulting capacity. At the end of her time of training the pupil receives the badge of the association, a red cross on a white ground, and signs an agreement to give not less than two years of service to the hospital. As a matter of fact, however, it is assumed that she will remain during her lifetime a member of the association, that is, subject to the control of its officers; and while this is not obligatory most of the nurses do so, as they are thus provided with work and otherwise cared for, whereas, to do otherwise, *i.e.*, to go forth and work independently, means that they cease to belong to the association and thereby lose all its benefits.

The graduates or sisters are now sent to the various institutions belonging to the State of Hamburg, and to certain hospitals and other institutions in the German colonies, in Jerusalem, and elsewhere, all of which branches are supervised by the Frau Oberin, a woman of great ability and energy. These positions are not open to nurses who leave the association.

Eppendorf does not send nurses to private duty, so that question does not enter here.

The Victoria House, in Berlin, is quite similar in its general plan. However, in the time of service to which the nurses bind themselves they may be sent to private duty among the rich or poor. This interesting school (founded by the Empress Frederick, and having a very beautiful

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