

direction, for the visiting nurse is one solution of the problem of the nursing of the middle classes, in many cases one or two hours' visit daily being sufficient help. The difficulty is how to make the work of such a nurse self-supporting at once, a difficulty which is met when some benevolent person, as in the present case, tides the experiment over the initial stage. Such practical help is a most excellent form of philanthropy.

The design of the gold and silver medals awarded to members of the Asylum Workers' Association for length of service is by two of the members. Upon a medallion in a star is a wreath of laurels surrounding the cypher A.W.A., while a ribbon in blue enamel bears the words "For Nursing Service." It is interesting to note as a proof of the length of the service of some Asylum Workers that for the two gold medals awarded by the Association, and for which only those are eligible who can show meritorious service of not less than thirty years' duration, sixteen applicants were eligible, and the awards ultimately fell to Mr. W. Hope, now inspector at Colney Hatch, where he has been for thirty-six and a half years, and Miss M. Riches, head nurse at Heigham Hall Asylum, Norwich, with nearly as long a record. A minimum of twenty-five years is the term for which the silver medals are given, and out of eighteen candidates they fell to Mr. C. Walker, charge attendant at Caterham, and Miss A. Garry, chief nurse at Gloucester County Asylum, each being credited with upwards of twenty-eight years.

It does seem extraordinary that of all the people concerned with the poor old labourer who was turned out of the Whitechapel Infirmary, the only one who failed to recognise the gravity of his condition was the medical man who attended him. The unfortunate man who lived at a lodging-house in Dorset Street, Spitalfields, complained of having hurt his ribs, and was taken to the Whitechapel Infirmary, but discharged the next day. The male receiving ward attendant called the attention of the Medical Superintendent to the patient as he did not consider him fit to leave the building. The Medical Superintendent after examining him, sent him back to the ward and left a message with the Sister to say he had done so. The assistant medical officer however, re-examined him, and "finding nothing the matter with him," once more discharged him. He returned to the lodging-house but was so ill that the County Council Lodging-House Inspector wrapped him up in rugs and wheeled him back in a barrow to the Infirmary, where he shortly afterwards died of pleurisy and emphysema.

Writing in the *Trained Nurse*, Sister Lucie gives some interesting information concerning the Victoria House in Berlin. She writes:—

"I was much interested in the article, 'Nursing in Germany—Pioneer Work by the Empress Frederick,' written by a 'Travelling Sister,' which appeared in the January number of the 'Trained Nurse.' To one who has been an inmate of the above house in the capacity of a sister over five years, from 1889-1894, and thoroughly initiated in the management, rules, and regulations of said institute, many of the circumstances mentioned seemed strange, and, therefore, I shall try to describe things as they were when I still belonged to the house. As stated in the article, after the Franco-Prussian war, the late Empress Frederick felt how very necessary it was to found good training schools for nurses to benefit the sick, also to give the physicians thoroughly scientifically trained assistants. Not only were these schools of great advantage to the physicians and the patients, but also the daughters of the middle-class people were thus enabled to make their living by a profession which gave them a larger sphere for action than if they had become teachers or governesses.

So the sisters of the Victoria House have to be grateful to the Empress Frederick for the opening to them of a new career which brings them more contentment, liberty, and blessing than in any other sphere.

To carry out her favorite plan the late Empress Frederick acquired the services of our late 'Frau Oberin,' Fräulein Louise Fuhrmann, who was at that time an instructress in England, and persuaded her to take a thorough course in hospital work in London, where she earned her diploma and was the recipient of great honours. After this she came to Berlin in the year 1882, and according to the model of Florence Nightingale of England, Fräulein Fuhrmann founded the school for nurses, whose patroness was the late Empress Frederick. First she began with a small number of sisters in a building in the Steinmetz Strasse, but very soon they had to remove to the 'Friedrichshain Hospital,' where the pupils for the first six months had to attend lectures given by the two chief physicians twice a week, and theoretical and practical demonstrations by 'Frau Oberin' and the head sisters daily.

The 'Travelling Sister' states that a pupil does not come in contact with a patient the first six months of her course. Either this is an error on her part or recently there must have been changes made in the plan of training. In former days we had to attend to the sick from the very start. Of course, for the first days and weeks lighter assistance was required from the pupils, but every day they were expected to be prepared for harder tasks. This work did not include scrubbing, dusting, and general housework; for such menial labour there was plenty of help, male and female, in the positions of porter, scrub-women, or so-called 'help nurses,' but the latter must not be mistaken for the Victoria Sisters, as they do not at all come in contact with the patients. On the other hand, a pupil's time is entirely taken up with her text-books and the practical care of the sick. Yet a Victoria Sister will never refuse to do anything that will add to the comfort or help the patient in any way.

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