

Of the large number of pupils that entered the Victoria House, many of them left before they finished their course, finding it severe beyond their expectations; and it is stated that in one year as many as fifty per cent. left in spite of losing the eighty dollars deposit fee which each one entering must give. So the number of nurses increased very slowly. Still there came a time when a larger home than the 'Friedrichshain Hospital' could give for that purpose was needed, so the generous gift of the City of Berlin in the year 1891 of a large piece of land was accepted with delight. In October, 1893, the Victoria Sisters entered the new home which had been built on this land, a beautiful building in the Landsberger-Allee. Never was the yearly celebration of the 'Victoria Fest' given with such splendour as that which took place in the new home November 23rd, 1893, Her Majesty's birthday. On this occasion the Empress Frederick presented those who had finished their course and passed their examination satisfactorily with a large silver monogram pin containing the letters V.H., with a crown above them. Only Frau Oberin, whose badge and chain were of gold, wore it hanging loose, but the other sisters wore theirs on a chain close to the neck.

If the Victoria House Training School has an enviable reputation in Germany now, we are alone indebted to Frl. Fuhrmann for it, who, through her ceaseless and energetic activity brought it to that standpoint which it to-day holds. She it was who took all the necessary steps to help the sisters along, spoke for them when their rights were concerned, and also brought about the alliance between the Red Cross Society and the Victoria House. At the time of Emperor Frederick's illness she was an excellent assistant to his physicians, which devotion won for her the affection of the late Empress Frederick, and from whose hands she received the highest medal, 'The Louisen Orden,' which is generally given only to ladies of the highest rank in court.

An agreement was made between the Red Cross Society and the Victoria House that in time of need fifteen per cent. of the sisters should be at their disposal; and so in the Servo-Bulgarian war and in the time of the cholera epidemic in Hamburg, 1892, some of our sisters were called for service, and on their return were presented with a pretty pin by the Empress Frederick.

Since the death of our 'Frau Oberin' in 1896, her place has been filled for the second time by one of the sisters. Her first successor was Sister Lina Quinke, who also had been trained in England, but who died shortly after she had become "Frau Oberin." Then the guidance of the training school was given into the hands of Sister Victoria Gervinus, who still fills the place. She also received her first training in England. There have been made many alterations in the six years since the death of the first 'Frau Oberin,' Frl. Fuhrmann, and if it is as 'Travelling Sister' describes it, it would show that our school, which was brought into life at the cost of so much energy and unselfish labour and devotion, is going backward, which I would most deeply regret. But I hope and wish with all my heart that it may not only maintain its good standard, but keep improving and growing better from year to year."

The Hospital World.

A PALACE OF SURGERY.

The London Hospital has of late years made many structural improvements, and added much to the completeness of its equipment. The latest addition is the new operating department which was opened last week by the Lord Mayor, and which is one of the most complete in the world. This new department has been built by the liberality of an anonymous donor who gave £13,000 for this purpose, attaching only two conditions to this generous gift (1) that the new department should be open to all denominations and (2) that his name should be kept secret. The Chairman of the Hospital however, Mr. Sydney Holland, stated on the opening day that the donor belonged to that ancient faith and race which had done much for the Hospital. The story goes, that about three years ago this gentleman was being shown round the London Hospital, when he noticed certain patients sitting about in red dressing-gowns. On enquiry he was told that they were about to undergo operations, although, owing to the great pressure upon the available space it was probable that they would have to wait for some days. Realising the physical and mental strain involved by such a delay, he enquired the cost of providing an adequate number of operating theatres, and on £13,000 being mentioned, he at once made this sum over to the Hospital authorities on the above-mentioned conditions, and many generations of patients, did they but know how the rough places have been made plain for them, would bless their unknown benefactor.

In the completed department nothing that money and scientific forethought can devise has been omitted. The new buildings consist of a theatre, four operating rooms, and three anæsthetic rooms, all facing north, and having top lights as well as windows. There are also four recovery rooms, five operation wards, sisters', nurses', and attendants' rooms, instrument and sterilising room, not to mention most comfortable surgeons' rooms with turkey carpets and all necessary furniture complete, two examining rooms and lavatory, and dressers' lavatory, as well as a room for the theatre superintendent. The floors of the theatre, operating, anæsthetic, instrument, and sterilising rooms and of the dressers' lavatory are of marble mosaic, and the walls and ceilings are lined with opalite. The ventilation has not been forgotten, and air is admitted by a glazed tunnel from the Hospital garden, and is driven in by an electric fan through a canvas water-screen, through cotton wool filters, and across a heating chamber warmed, when necessary, by steam coils.

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