

in different institutions, where she gains further experience.

After another two to four years have passed, if everything is satisfactory, the young Sister is admitted by a religious ceremony into the Home as a full Sister; there is no difference in dress except, perhaps, an added band to the cap.

Now her future is assured in sickness and old age; in fact, for the rest of her life she belongs to and is cared for by the Home. If she chooses she may resign, or get married, but I was told this did not often occur.

So far the physical welfare of the Sisters. Now for the preparation given them for the onerous duties which they may be called upon to perform in regard to the sick.

The education given is of the most elementary description. They receive instruction several times a week, chiefly from the Director, who is a pastor; but in some cases the medical staff give the lectures upon anatomy, physiology, and chemistry; for the rest, they pick up what they can from the Sisters.

The hours are long—from 4.30 a.m. in the summer, or 5 in winter, to very often 9 at night. The work is hard, for not only do they attend to the personal needs of their patients, but they also do all, or nearly all, the ward work too.

Certainly the work with them is a labour of love, there being no inducement to stay for any other reason; the air of happiness and contentment, however, which pervaded all the Homes, was something to be remembered.

Naturally the standard of nursing by no means reaches the English one, but what is lacking in knowledge they endeavour to make up by devotion.

Much of the private work done by the Sisters is done among the poor; but some are sent to richer families, the fees being remitted to the Home. The Sisters are forbidden by their rules to accept anything whatever from the patients or their friends without the permission of the Mother.

The work of the Sisters is not confined to nursing the sick, although that is their chief occupation; some teach in the outlying village schools, others are employed as temperance and district workers, &c. For holidays or when ill they return home, to rest or be nursed until they are strong enough to work again.

There are a few Roman Catholic Sisters who have a private hospital at Zurich, but I need say little more of them than that the Mother Superior is supreme.

The Red Cross Society at Zurich, so far as I understand, is a society which has a Home with a hospital attached, and supplies private nurses to the public during peace; in case of war or epidemics they are then at the service of the community.

The pupils enter the Home and work in the Red Cross Hospital for the first six months. During this time they have lectures four or five times a

week from the doctors, with an examination at the end. Then they are passed on to the Cantonal Hospital for another six months to receive a more varied experience than can be obtained in their own.

Should they not care for the work they may resign during the first six months, but after that if they resign without adequate reason (matrimony being so regarded) they must pay a fine of 300 francs or £12.

In case of serious home duties extensive leave is accorded, so that resignation need not be resorted to on that account. No religious qualification is needed, and attendance at morning and evening prayers is optional, or perhaps it is more in the form of a conscience clause.

At the end of five years' service the nurse is admitted as a Red Cross Sister, and receives the silver cross, upon which is the red cross in enamel. After that she belongs absolutely to the service; but even that is no bar to matrimony or serious home duties. For example, she may receive leave from the Society for two or three years to nurse a sick parent, and, when no longer needed at home, return to her nursing duties.

In this Society the nurse receives only her indoor uniform, her black outdoor dress she supplies herself; but then she is paid. The first six months she receives ten francs per month, about 8s. 4d. English; after that at the rate of £12 per year for the next three years, then increasing to £20 per year. Not enough to provide for old age certainly! Happily this is not necessary, as that duty is undertaken by the Society. The hours here are also very long, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Lectures are given by the medical staff four or five times a week in the afternoon.

Off-duty times are once a fortnight on Sunday, other times by special permission of the Medical Superintendent. The nurses do all the ward work. Night duty is shared by the day staff—that is to say, of the three nurses on duty in the day (with twenty-four patients), one stays on until 1 a.m. the next day, another comes on duty at 1 a.m. and remains until 8 p.m., each having a nineteen-hour day, there being only one staff for the twenty-four hours.

Then there are the private schools, the chief one being that of La Source at Lausanne. This was founded in 1857 to teach young women theoretical nursing only. Now a doctor has taken the adjoining house, and the pupils have practical experience in his Nursing Home or Clinic. This Clinic consists of eleven beds (all paying patients), so the practice is extremely limited. Efforts are, however, being made to build an infirmary.

Out-patients are seen and treated, as far as possible in such a small affair, so the pupils get a certain amount of experience in first aid, massage, and electricity, as well as a little nursing. The

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