

guests in the name of the German Council, and pointed out that the woman's movement was a factor of the highest importance in public life. It was, she said, a fortunate circumstance that, in the course of the last year, public opinion had been aroused in its favour. Thus it was possible to-day to discuss questions which years ago it would have been impossible to touch upon. The women's movement was designed to give greater importance and breadth to the mission of woman, but it could not and would not compromise or obliterate feminine characteristics. On the contrary, it was desired that these characteristics should be ennobled and exalted, and should thus play a greater part than ever in the life of the family. The free determination of her own destiny and character would enhance the worth of woman, and would develop in her qualities which she had hitherto lacked. Their ideal was "the woman of the future, who should be strong, free, and yet motherly." Frau Stritt then declared the Congress open, and said that it was the hope of those who had organised it that it might present a picture of the universality of woman, and of how she permeates to-day the whole structure of civilised life.

THE SECTIONS.

The audience then dispersed to the meetings at which questions in which they were specially interested were to be discussed.

The scope of the Congress, broadly speaking, comprised four sections, in which the condition of women in (i.) Education, (ii.) Professions and Businesses, (iii.) Social Work, and (iv.) Their Civil and Legal Position were presented and discussed by experts. These four sections were ably organised by Fraulein Helene Lange, Fraulein Alice Saloman, Frau Anna Edinger, and Freiin Olga von Beschwitz. The scope of the Congress was so vast and the speakers so numerous that it is impossible to mention the names of the many distinguished women who took part in it, but it is incontrovertible that the earnest purpose and vital force of the German women stamped every gathering, and their cultured solidarity was an awakening to the foreign delegates who came to Berlin with preconceived ideas concerning them. As organisers, conductors of meetings, orators, debaters, and hostesses, the German women stood out all through the Congress as leaders, and we must seek the root of their pre-eminence in their trained intelligence, the product of a fine general education.

Other characteristics which undoubtedly add to their attractiveness are their charm of manner and courteous bearing, qualities which, in combination with dignity and simplicity, form a personality much above the average.

Having grasped the significance of the woman's movement—the movement which tends through the elevation of their sex to elevate humanity—the German women are going to be leaders all along the line.

THE NURSING SECTION.

Thursday morning, June 16th, was the nurses' day in the Congress. Nurses were present from Germany, England, Ireland, the United States of America, France, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, and other countries, and the interest was keen throughout.

The chair was taken by Frau Elsbeth Krukenberg, who presided with great dignity and charm, and who was supported on the platform by the speakers: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, England; Miss L. L. Dock, Miss Goodrich, and Miss Maud Banfield, United States; Schwester Agnes Karll, Berlin; Signora Bice Cammeo, Italy; Mme. Alphen Salvador, France; and Dr. Ellen Sandelin, Sweden; and amongst others who took part in the discussion, Miss Isla Stewart, England; Frau Emmy von Gordon, Frau Thusnelda Arndt, Lilli Baroness von Bistram, and Frau Oberin Becker, Germany; and Miss Mary E. Thornton, United States; also by Miss Mollett, Mrs. Alfred Booth, and others.

In the course of her opening remarks the Chairman referred to the unsatisfactory condition of nursing in Germany before 1870. Until that time there were only two classes of nurses: those connected with Religious Orders, and uneducated assistants. Thus, for a cultivated girl to become a nurse, it was necessary for her to enter a community.

In 1870 the Empress Augusta instituted the Red Cross Societies. These were secular organisations which, for the first time, offered opportunities to educated women to enter the profession of nursing, primarily with the object of providing skilled nursing in time of war. In addition to the Red Cross were the Johanniter, who rendered gratuitous nursing service also in time of war, and only exceptionally in time of peace. The Red Cross nurses, on the contrary, worked continuously. Thus, with the establishment of the Red Cross Societies, the idea that nursing was only to be performed for a heavenly reward came to an end. Nursing became recognised as a secular means of livelihood for women, but even in Red Cross organisation the old ecclesiastical forms were incorporated.

Nurses entering the Red Cross Society were required to separate from their relatives, and to yield unquestioning obedience. These demands made the discipline enforced very severe, and it was no wonder that educated girls hesitated to enter the profession of nursing. In early times this want of education was not so much felt, but soon doctors began to require more intelligent comprehension from their assistants. Their success or failure often depended on the efficiency of the nurse. Continuing, the speaker said: "Foreign countries have long since recognised the nurse with a diploma. In Germany there is complete arbitrariness on this point. Capacity and incapacity cannot be distinguished. What we think is required for training, Fraulein Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, will tell us: There is a great need of

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