

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM GERMANY.



In the autumn of next year a magnificent new hospital is to be opened at Dusseldorf, and the German Nurses' Association is already coming forward to help prepare a suitable nursing staff to be in readiness when the patients are admitted, and that the medical and nursing staffs shall be ready to work in harmony. Sisters who wish to offer themselves for work in this promising new sphere must during the coming year work in groups of six in the Frederick William Institute in Bonn, under the future director and head medical officer of the Dusseldorf Hospital, so that the qualities of the sisters for the various posts may be gauged. The Sisters from Rhineland and Westphalia will be specially preferred, and as Dusseldorf is largely Roman Catholic, nurses of this religion will be acceptable, though the German Nurses' Association is strictly non-sectarian.

Pupils will be admitted for a two years' course of training—a great advance in Germany, as one year is still the term of training in many schools—the first year to close with an examination, a diploma to be given at the end of the second. Pupils may begin training at the age of twenty-one, so that they will have the most vigorous years of their life to devote to their skilled calling. The Sisters will superintend the domestic departments—the kitchen and laundry, this is a part of the present excellent arrangement to be found in the majority of German hospitals and nursing institutions.

A GARDEN HOSPITAL.

In Germany we have always recognised the necessity for providing breathing space around our hospitals built in cities, and the new hospital at Dusseldorf is to be a veritable "garden hospital." The blocks, which will contain 1,000 beds, are spread over a space of thirty-five acres. It is best considered in three large groups, the academy in the east, the hospital buildings in the middle, and the administration block in the west.

The scientific blocks contain the anatomical, pathological, bacteriological, and chemical divisions, a division for experiments on animals, hygiene and serum investigation. Adjoining the scientific departments is the division for infectious diseases, which contains a reception block, from the medical point of view specially desirable as an innovation, as it is not possessed by any German hospital at present.

There is to be a block for paying patients which has the appearance of a regular hospital, and provision is being made for special divisions for every kind of disease, operations, accidents and treatment, and domestic management. No. 21 Block is the principal and is intended for surgical cases. Its outward appearance is distinguished by three large projecting theatres, buildings of glass and iron.

These rooms, which are on the ground floor, have double upper lights. The walls and ceilings are of glass, to permit the light to penetrate, so that there will be a sea of light in the white rooms.

The main administrative division is handsomely built of stone and contains the residences of doctors and Sisters on separate floors, and there are twenty-seven separate buildings in all. On the south side of many are verandahs on to which beds can be carried.

The grounds are most spacious and are to be laid out with great beauty. A pond is to be provided for animals for investigation, and near by a rose garden [Rather pathetic.—Ed.], fine playgrounds, shady walks, arbours, and sparkling fountains. Every building is to be surrounded with trees and shrubs, and a large space is to be devoted to a lovely garden around the administration block.

The cost of this "garden hospital" will run to five and a-half million marks, and it will be a wonderful training-school for students of medicine and nursing; an enormous advantage to the latter. Here it is intended to establish the modern training-school system, and train the intelligence as well as the character, a combination which alone can produce the finest results, both for patient and nurse.

THE "GERMAN JOURNAL OF NURSING."

The German nurses are looking forward eagerly to the issue of their own paper on January 1st next—it is to be called the *German Journal of Nursing*, and, as agreed last year in Berlin, will take rank as an official organ of the International Council of Nurses with the British and American Journals of Nursing (as will the official organs of all National Councils of Nurses as they affiliate to the International Council). In January, 1906, all being well, Sister Maida Lübben will act as Editor—and upon her return to Germany at the expiration of her tour to be spent in acquainting herself with hospital and nursing methods in the most progressive countries in the world. Sister Jutta Stegemann will also help, and her experience will be invaluable. It is hoped the Sisters will send original contributions. Active and passive members of the Association must pay for the paper, excepting the district nurses whose salaries do not exceed £15 a year, pupils who do not have 10s. a month pocket money, and all invalid and old Sisters who cannot work. It is only by supporting their own paper financially that it can be founded and maintained upon a sound business basis. We are indeed thankful that, so far, our professional affairs have not been dealt with by commercial so-called nursing journals, from which you suffer so much in England. It seems too cruel that such papers are utilised to prevent the educational and industrial betterment of a class of working women, whose whole lives are devoted to the uplifting and care of the poor and needy. With you, we believe that legal Registration is the remedy for many troubles. We are already organising to interest our legislators, and tell them what we want, as they do not understand our needs. How should they? And yet they are dealing with the questions of our training and examination. Is it not wrong that women are denied responsibility to deal with questions on which they have sound knowledge? GERMANIA.

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