

well as a dwelling and workroom, but there was no sleeping-room, except the small loft, to which there was not even a staircase. In the evening a ladder was set, and Minna climbed up. The ladder was removed behind her, to be set up again the next morning. The reader will regard this scene with as much pleasure as the pastor's wife when she came with her little daughter to bring work to the one committed to her charge, "for," so Fliedner relates, "as she herself was unweariedly active, she recognised also in the habit of regular work one of the most effective means of healing for those girls who had fallen into crime mainly through idleness." As a mother cherishes her first born tender child, so did the pastor's wife tend and care for this first inconspicuous little seed of the Refuge of Love at Kaiserswerth. Her faithfulness pursued it, as it was eventually removed from its first home, the little garden house, to a home of its own, about a hundred steps from the parsonage, and the number of inmates increased.

For the first few years the Refuge gave a good deal of work and trouble. "Partly," Fliedner confesses frankly, "was our experience in the management of an institution very small, partly the matron, Fräulein Göbel, needed considerable support, as so little came from outside, not only for the education and occupation of the inmates, who were generally much debased, but also in connection with putting them out to service afterwards. Herein also did the pastor's wife give daily help with unwearied love. "The little one shall become a thousand and the small one a strong nation; I the Lord will hasten it in its time." (Is. lx. 22).

The whole of the great work of the Deaconesses, which now has extended into all Evangelical countries, sprang through the guidance of God from the insignificant work of love in the garden house at Kaiserswerth. Whereas to-day the deaconesses are, so to speak, part of one's daily bread, at that time there was not in the whole Evangelical world one single deaconess. The ancient apostolic order of the Church had disappeared. It is true that, warmly encouraged by the Crown Prince, afterwards King Frederick William IV., men like Pastor Klönne in Bislich, near Wesel, and Count Recke in Düsseldorf had advised the revival of the same which had appeared like a seed here and there during the Reformation. Also the Squire of Stein, who was highly esteemed throughout Germany, had cherished the wish, in conjunction with the ardent Amalie Sieveking in Hamburg, to introduce into the Protestant Church something similar to the Sisters of Mercy in the Roman Catholic. But

nothing had come from all the speeches and counsels.

Fliedner was the man whom God had provided to put new life into the Biblical order of deaconess in our Church.

Nevertheless with all his activity and noble courage he would have been able neither to begin nor to carry through so difficult a work had not the faithful life-companion whom God had given him stood by his side with as much willingness as wisdom and patience. "She knew also," he writes with thankful heart, "by experience, how deficient, in general, sick-nursing was. She entered therefore warmly into my plan to provide an institution for the training of nurses, *i.e.* to found an Institution for Deaconesses with a Hospital in God's name here at Kaiserswerth. And behold the opportunity offered itself for the purchase of the finest and largest house in the town; which was also situated near to the Parsonage.

"I could not consult my wife as she was on the point of being confined. But directly she heard of it, three days afterwards, she urged me strongly to buy it in the name of the Lord as soon as possible. I hesitated, for it would cost 2,300 dollars. We did not possess as many pennies, but the Lord strengthened our faith. I purchased it with a calm mind on the 20th April, 1836.

"At Michaelmas of the same year the money was to be paid. After many enquiries as to where this capital was to be borrowed, Sophie Wiering, of Düsseldorf, the above mentioned friend of my wife, offered to lend the first mortgage at 1,800 dollars. Only a few days before Michaelmas the remaining 500 dollars were lent by a noble philanthropist through the influence of the then President of Düsseldorf.

"Thus was this great load taken from our hearts. But others soon followed. Two Catholic town-councillors urged me strongly not to turn the house into a hospital and said that the whole town was opposed to it, and that I should be complained of to the Government. The anxious physician, too, whom we had engaged warned me against leaving home—I had intended collecting for the Deaconess House in Elberfeld—on account of my wife and the excited condition of the populace. But she laughed, for she knew of a higher protection, and encouraged me to travel, which I accordingly did. Not a breath was stirred against her."

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Miss Flood-Jones has resigned her appointment as Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, Witham.

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