

The young institution grew up full of vigour, overcame one difficulty after another, and quickly won the confidence of the Evangelicals. The probationers came to Kaiserswerth year after year in increasing numbers from the most distant parts and from widely differing ranks. Much patience was needed, and a genuine motherly love to unite those various elements together into one harmonious Sisterhood, and make them feel members of one family.

There was an increasing demand also for Deaconesses. Almost every day the Mother of the Institution had a fresh experience of the word of the Lord; "the harvest truly is great but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth labourers into His harvest."

She prayed, and every answer to this prayer refreshed her like a sunbeam.

One gloomy November morning in the year 1839 she was in the nursery busily bathing her youngest child when two true-hearted Swabian women appeared dressed in their attractive costume and humbly asked leave to become probationers.

"Two of you at once, and from dear Württemberg, that is, indeed, a Godsend," cried the delighted pastor's wife. "We were in such great need on account of the small number of Sisters for the increasing work. We must be ashamed of our unbelief, and see how the Lord keeps His word: 'Before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear.'" She left her child in the bath for a moment in order to acquaint her husband with this godsend as a fruit of the seed which Fliedner had sown broadcast in 1838 during a journey through South Germany and Switzerland.

The Sisterhood at Kaiserswerth had indeed a veritable Godsend on that day. For one of the newcomers was Sophie Wagner who, richly gifted, anointed by the Spirit from on high, became for over forty years the much-beloved leading Sister of our Kaiserswerth Hospital and Motherhouse, the reliable representative of the Matron, the counsellor of the governor, an indispensable shining pillar of the whole work.

Besides these two, many a faithful Swabian had, both before and after, found the broad way to the Lower Rhine. The widowed Duchess, Henriette of Württemberg, begged in 1840 two deaconesses for her little hospital in Kirchheim-under-Teck, with the condition that they must be Württembergers. On account of the importance which she justly attached to the founding of these early Deaconess Homes, the pastor's wife tore herself away, and started with two Sisters on the long journey.

The faith of the Duchess, clear and active with

love, proved a true strengthener to her heart at this time. The former too was well pleased with the honest self-denying Rhenish pastor's wife.

She presented her with her portrait with genial words, and honoured her repeatedly until her death with letters full of deep sympathy.

Meanwhile the Kaiserswerth Deaconess house as the first, and for a long time the only one, had now considerable fame at home and abroad. It followed, therefore, that its Matron often had intercourse with persons of princely and noble rank. If she had to thank her parents' position at the Braunfels Court for some of the tact which she exercised, yet it was mainly due to her own deep Christian heart. Love speaks a universal language.

She experienced this in a lively way when in May, 1840, Elizabeth Fry, famous on account of her loving work among prisoners, visited Kaiserswerth. Then, although the latter could speak no German, and the former no English, they were yet able, to their own astonishment, to be intelligible to each other through signs and in single words. Their common interests and feelings wove a secret bond of union between them.

"Close to each other dwell joy and sorrow."

Elizabeth Fry had barely entered the house when the pastor's wife received a letter informing her that Fliedner's youngest brother, his darling and pupil, had died of typhus, and only eight days before his ordination had been a source of grateful joy to them.

In order to spare her husband the distress of this news in the visitors' presence, she bore it with silent courage alone, and anointed her face with friendly hospitality in entertaining her honoured guests.

Only towards evening did the husband and wife weep and pray over the gap which the Lord had made in their family. When a few days afterwards God gave them a fine little son they bestowed upon him the name of the dead brother George.

The opinion of Elizabeth Fry being so strongly favourable, her public recognition of the value of the Home of Rest, Magdalene Home, and Deaconess House won many friends, and helped to overcome prejudice and give fresh courage to the Leader of all.

(To be continued.)

ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

The following appointments have been made in the above Order:—

TO BE LADIES OF GRACE.—Miss Emily Du Pre, (from Honorary Associate), Mrs. Teresa Eden Richardson, Mrs. Ellen Bertha Tufnell, and Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Macpherson.

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