

A New Nursing Paper.

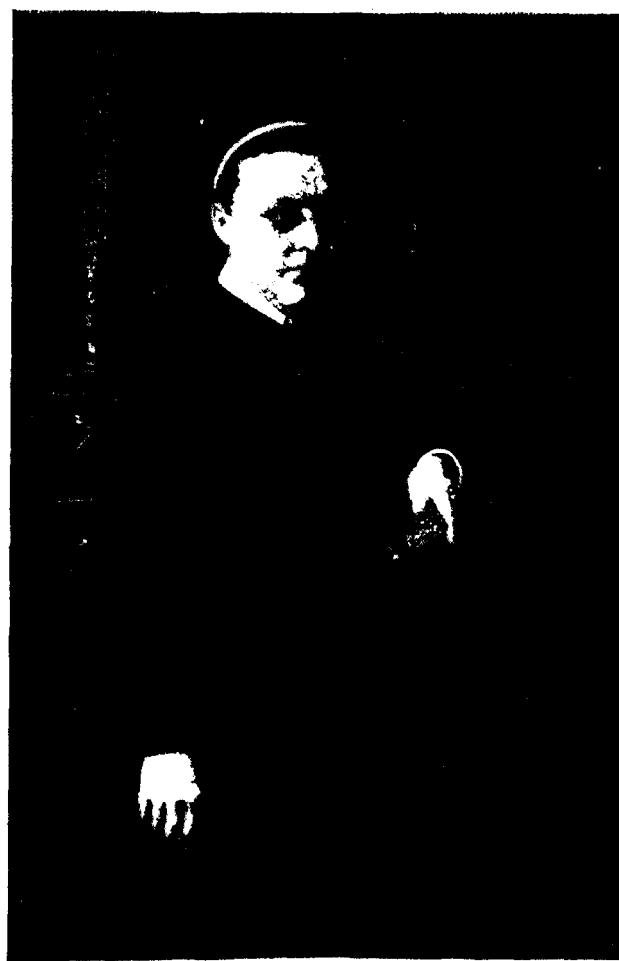
UNTERM LAZARUSKREUZ.

One requires to have some knowledge of German nursing matters in the past to greet with adequate warmth and appreciation the very excellent and business-like little paper that has just been issued as the mouthpiece of German professional nurses. Until quite lately, the idea of becoming a nurse, except as a deaconess in connection with some religious foundation, was unheard of amongst respectable German girls, and it has required much energy and public spirit to found a free and professional nursing organisation. That it has been possible to do so and also to start the publication of a nursing paper speaks volumes for the enterprise and tact of those responsible for its appearance. The leading article, which is a clear and excellent exposition of the progress of the German Nurses' Association, its position at the present moment and its aspirations, states that on the 11th January, 1903, many Sisters gathered together in the "Sister House Emmaus," near Berlin, to found a professional association of Sisters.

There is a German touch in the next sentence which states "The new Association would be reported to the police next day as consisting of thirty members," for in Germany the founding of any association has to be reported to the police. To-day the editor writes with pardonable pride we number 900 associates, of whom 800 are Sisters (Sisters, I may remark here, is the German courtesy title given to every nurse). The Reform movement in nursing matters had, she considers, so long been forced to

remain in the background that once permitted to come forward it developed with surprising rapidity. The difficulties that have had to be overcome seem to have been much like those we have met with in England, those that hamper every new movement that does not run in the old ruts. First and foremost she places tradition, that has assigned the nurse's place in the universe according to old custom; secondly, the growing incapacity of women, which she puts down to German education! then the German idea of a woman's position during the last half of the past century.

It is to the development of the general woman's movement during the last ten years that the writer attributes the possibility of nurses attaining a position of respected independence outside religious and philanthropic bodies. The position of nurses with regard to the general movement in favour of the development of women's work, is dwelt upon at length in the article, which throughout breathes a courageous and public spirit. She writes of the nurse's power as a factor in social advancement "in matters not purely professional," striking the same note as some American journals. "As long as nursing was solely in the hands of women who regarded it as the duty of their lives to retire from the world and serve God, there existed for them



SISTER AGNES KARLL.

President of the German Nurses' Association.

no professional problems. They lived in less complicated times than ours. Our motto is to live in this world and yet serve God and man, only so can our profession in this age attain its full development."

The article goes on to enumerate the evils of carrying the cloister system into "lay" institutions, the admission of too young girls as pupils, which has been done with "sad" results. The association now places its members in a position of independence, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)