

and as district assistant has done excellent service for 10 years in training the nurses for the Scottish branch, has been presented by the nurses with a gold chain and a writing bureau, bearing the inscription: "To Miss Myers, with affection and esteem, from the Queen's Nurses in Scotland."

The two Queen's Nurses in Kirkcaldy have been transferred from lodgings in the High Street to a self-contained cottage in a quiet and central locality. The little house has six rooms, with bathroom, scullery, and a small bit of garden both back and front. The cost to the Committee will be rather higher than it was under the old management, but when it becomes necessary through pressure of work to engage a temporary Nurse the expense of her maintenance will be proportionately reduced. The Nurses will benefit by the greater airiness and quiet, both so essential to hard worked people. The house has been furnished with gifts from past and present members of the Committee, and other friends of the Association.

The last issue of *Unterm Lazaruskreuz* gives some space to the recent discussion in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on the varied opinions on hospital versus private nursing. It remarked that, while the latter in England and Australia is regarded by many nurses as second rate work, in America it is looked on as the most responsible branch of the profession. This is also the view of our German colleagues.

There is a very interesting account of the first foreign hospital to be nursed by members of the German Nurses' Association. The hospital is in Merida, in the province of Yucatan, in the south of Mexico. Yucatan is a peninsula surrounded on three sides by water. Merida is the capital, and enjoys a delightful climate, being only 40 minutes tram ride from the sea. The temperature in the hottest season does not exceed 35 deg. Celsius (95 deg. Fahr.) or fall lower than 15 deg. Celsius (59 deg. Fahr.).

The hospital is quite new, being built after the Eppendorf pattern, in 12 separate blocks. Only part of the building is in working order. Each block has 20 beds, two private rooms, a Sister's room, bathroom, and other offices. At first two Sisters are to work each ward, with the help of a male or female servant. (Ten patients to each Sister seems a somewhat large proportion taking also into account that the servants are more or less Indian.)

The Sisters are to work together till used to their surroundings and able to speak some

Spanish, but in time each German Sister is to have a Mexican nurse to work under her, as probationers of a good class are obtainable. Thus a nursing school will gradually be formed, each block being in charge of a German Sister.

Ten Sisters are required at once to start the surgical, isolation and lying-in wards, and later probably another to supervise the Sisters, the housekeeping and laundry, and to be responsible for the training of probationers. (To our English view this last Sister should surely be the *first* to be appointed.) Dr. Molina, a Mexican by birth, but who studied for four years in Heidelberg and Freiberg, has shown his appreciation of the work of German nurses by obtaining from his uncle, the Governor of Yucatan, permission to appoint German nurses to the hospital. The journal is naturally proud that the choice has fallen on its members. The chosen ten will sail on November 14th from Hamburg, and are to begin their duties by studying Spanish on the two weeks' voyage. May all good go with them in their new sphere of work.

A leading article states that the Journal has the greatest satisfaction in publishing this news to the members of the German Nurses' Association—the great wish of German women to help abroad as well as at home being well known—but lays stress on the fact that only highly-educated, well-trained nurses need apply. The Journal has also interesting articles on the burning questions of educated *versus* uneducated midwives, on the advisability of women nurses attending certain male diseases, and on rescue work for girls under eighteen in compulsory homes appointed by law.

A writer in the *Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumnae Magazine*, referring to the meeting of the National Associated Alumnae, says:—"It warms one's heart to feel at these conferences how united a body we nurses are; the business moves smoothly, there are no squabbles, no political rings—each one seems truly interested in furthering the welfare of her profession."

English nurses can bear the same testimony concerning the working of their own self-governing associations. Nothing is more remarkable than the despatch of business, the satisfactory condition of the finances, and the general good fellowship which prevails in connection with societies in which nurses manage their own affairs. Their power to do so is amply demonstrated.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)