

anyone who has undergone an inefficient training of six weeks' duration, or so on, it will be understood how gratefully any concessions made by the State, which may, we hope, through practical experience, lead to more, are to be welcomed. Moreover, no one can be prevented if they wish to train longer than a year. The German Nurses' Association has provided for a second year's training in all such hospitals and training schools, where the staff consists solely of its members, and it is to be hoped that the results of this provision will be such, that the extension of the one year's training required by the State will soon follow, if we have not in the meantime the luck to obtain a three years' period. Of actual progress I can say but little! More than a year passed before the decision was followed by the drawing up of the regulations in Prussia. This has only come into force since the 1st of June, 1907. Those German States which do not, like Bavaria, hold quite aloof from the movement, are awaiting Prussia's example before making a decision. The old Hanseatic town of Lübeck has drawn up the necessary rules some months ago, so that two of our nurses who live there, Sister Johanna Chalibäus and Sister Minna Welle are already in possession of State Registration. Of course this does not imply that there is in any sense of the word a school according to modern principles. It is simply the acknowledgment of professionally trained nurses that is thus there secured.

The Sophienhaus in Weimar has, however, since the 21st of April, instituted a course of training moulded according to the State plans, which is worthy of imitation. Geh. Rat. Pfeiffer, who has been head doctor there for 30 years, is fully alive to the worth of a good foundation and thorough grounding in our profession, and it is owing to him that this training school receives other probationers than those which are destined to enter the Motherhouse; these probationers do not bind themselves to anything beyond the payment of a small sum for their board at the commencement of their entrance. Geh. Rat Pfeiffer has adapted his book of instructions, which has just reached its 4th edition, by the aid of 40 doctors and nurses, to the Government regulations and has had all the chapters on practical nursing revised by women. He always draws particular notice to the importance of women's help in the education and training of nurses, and bases his convictions on his 30 years' experience as manager of a nursing school.

Only the future can show whether the municipal hospitals in Düsseldorf, Dortmund, and

Rheydt, which are now connected with the German Nurses' Association, will fulfil all that they promise. In Dortmund probationers receive instruction, but as the regulations regarding the order of examination have only just been formulated, the ancient rule—non-obligatory—still holds good. Sisters belonging to the German Nurses' Association will be able to enter the Rheydt Institution on the 1st of July, whilst Düsseldorf, which is being newly built, and only opens some departments this month, cannot begin a course of training and instruction before the 1st of October.

In Germany we can only speak of "hope," of "progress," not of certainty, and we must comfort ourselves with the words of encouragement spoken by our English colleagues in 1904, and hope that their prophecy that German thoroughness will eventually bring about quick progress even if the commencement be slow. We of the German Nurses' Association are certainly willing to do our share towards lessening the difficulties of this state of transition. It remains for us to hope that ere long our medical men will see the force of these arguments and become alive to the importance of the case; also that the hospital boards will learn that they can no longer found so-called schools unless they are prepared to fulfil their duties and enforce the rules to the letter, instead of using those who are "pupils" as cheapest workers.

The duties of a governing committee include the careful choice of matrons, doctors, and head sisters (nurses). These should be chosen with a view to their capabilities of teaching, an important point, but one which with us has been more or less overlooked, though it may be considered as absolutely necessary to progress. Also care must be taken to ensure proper time for instruction and the study of received information. Instruction must no longer on any account be imparted at a late evening hour after the nurse has gone through 14 to 15 hours' hard work; nor must spare moments of the night watch which are not devoted to domestic work be considered the right time for the probationer to prepare her written work. Until these regulations are the order of the day, we cannot confidently speak of progress in nursing in Germany. One hope we can build upon, "the future is ours"!

At the Meeting of the British Medical Association held this week at Exeter, in the section of hygiene and public health, the two most important subjects that will be considered are the reduction of infant mortality by better management and control of the milk supply, and the more strict inspection of our meat supplies.

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