

pulse, and in case of fever he had always given directions (for it might be the same illness that his boy had) that the patient ought to have no rice, only milk. Again, they had had much success with ulcers by showing as many people as possible how to treat them.

In a mission hospital, even more than elsewhere, then, a nurse should do all in her power, and use all her intelligence and tact, to make things go smoothly and easily for the physician. It was often trying for him to have all these people about, and, further, he had great responsibility to bear. At home there were specialists of every kind, and doctors could consult with their colleagues over difficult cases. In a mission hospital the physician had to be a specialist in every branch; one moment there was a serious abdominal operation; when that was over, perhaps a cataract operation; then the doctor might be called out to a very serious case or to a confinement, so the nurse should save him from needless worry.

Miss Rutgers said she hoped she had not discouraged any who were thinking of missionary work; she would not like to do that.

In England were published two beautiful missionary books—one, "Things as They Are," the other, "Overweights of Joy." What she had just been speaking about came under the first heading, but there was the other side, and it was no exaggeration to speak of "overweights of joy"! For nurses there was a great joy in caring for those for whom nobody cared; from a professional standpoint, there was joy in seeing so many interesting cases—in seeing the patients clean and comfortable in their beds, instead of lying on the floor in dark and not very clean native huts, where nobody cares for them, or where they die from too much inefficient care. But, above all, there was a very great joy, indeed, for the missionary nurse in seeing her patients, under God's blessing, begin to understand something of the love of Him who sent her. That was worth all the small sacrifices of the missionary nurse, and, for her part, knowing now the difficulties of the work, knowing much better than when she first went out "things as they are," she would be only too glad because of these "overweights of joy" to return to her hospital, and she hoped that many of those present would give themselves to mission work.

#### GERMAN MISSION NURSING.

SISTER CAECILIE WOLFF presented the next paper, on German Mission Nursing, and said that no more typical expression of practical Christianity could be given than by nursing in mission work.

Unfortunately, there was hardly any field in which there was such a lack of suitable women nurses, and no field which required in so great a degree persons of character, possessed of the faith which removes mountains, and the greatest and most broad-minded excellence. Only persons of energy were suitable as mission nurses; impractical dreamers and idealists were of no use.

The deaconess houses had done their best to provide the mission societies with trained nurses, but the lack of such nurses made this provision only possible in a very slight degree. Until quite recently the German missionary societies were

entirely dependent on the co-operation of the deaconess houses, as they had no training schools of their own for nurses. In 1906, however, the foundation of the Medical Institute for Missions in Tübingen made such training possible. There the practical and professional training under university professors for students of medicine, and the training of nurses in general nursing and midwifery in combination with mission work, would be possible. The Director of the Institute, Dr. M. Fiebig, would give instruction in tropical hygiene and tropical diseases. As head army doctor in the Dutch Indies he had gained knowledge admirably qualifying him for this post.

An institution for training in the religious part of mission work had already been established in the women's mission school for home and foreign missions in Malche bei Freienwalde in 1900, and, in 1908, it had been necessary to build a second house for that purpose.

A Sister of the German Nurses' Association, after years of experience in nursing and midwifery, went through a course of training there before being sent to China, and her sister was now in training, and other sisters had often reaped great spiritual advantage from a passing stay there. On the other hand, many girls who received their religious training there found out that they should receive training in nursing and midwifery, and the German Nurses' Association would help them to obtain this under the best possible conditions. The first would shortly be placed in the Dortmund Municipal Hospital.

The present number of German trained nurses connected with the Evangelical Missions was 157, 64 of these belonged to the Kaiserswerth Mother House, which had had an extensive activity in the East since 1851. These nurses were distributed in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Constantinople, Smyrna, Alexandria, Cairo, Beirut, Arega, and Haifa. Nine other mother houses of the Kaiserswerth Conference also provided seven mission stations with 34 Sisters, but 11 of these Sisters came from two Dutch and two Scandinavian mother houses, and the work of the Basel Mission was included in the figures of this report, as it was inseparable from the German Mission. These missions worked in Africa, in the German and foreign colonies, in the East Indies, China, Madagascar, and Palestine.

Eleven missionary societies disposed of the help of 34 more Sisters, who, with few exceptions were not deaconesses, but professional nurses. Their activity was mostly carried on in India, Africa, and China. A few worked in the Caroline Islands, in the Soudan, and at some stations in the East.

The nurses worked for the most part single-handed, and out of 34 places to which one Nursing Sister was appointed, in only six instances were other religious Sisters appointed. One Society which has stationed four nurses in Jerusalem, and five in Paramaribo, Surinam, devoted itself especially to the care of lepers. It was quite impossible for the present to obtain any reliable information or figures concerning the work of the Roman Catholic mission. This was most regrettable considering the extent of their activity, but as the greater part of nursing in Germany was still in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)