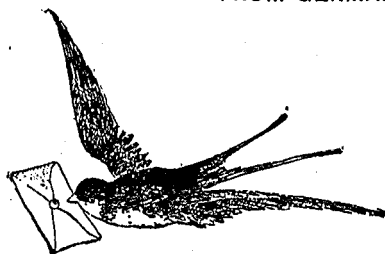


Our Foreign Letter.

NEWS FROM GERMANY.



The 22nd of October was a red letter day for the German Nurses' Association. About 100 of our nurses attended the opening of the second course of lectures for trained nurses to be given by some well-known Berlin doctors. Since our admission into the International Council of Nurses I have regularly read the British and American Journals of Nursing, and envy filled my heart when I learnt how many opportunities British and American nurses had for training, lectures, and post-graduate courses. The unsystematic and one-sided German training, very good in practical ways in most hospitals, very bad from the theoretical side in almost all, needed sorely to be supplemented by opportunities like these. But no German hospital or doctor did anything to help the nurses. When our office was enlarged two years after our foundation, a few of our medical friends began to give a lecture there to our nurses and a good many attended them. Dr. Eugen Israel was one of these. He had always been interested in the training of nurses and State Registration.

Some of you may remember him. He took part in the discussion of our morning meeting in the Berlin Congress, 1904, and since then has kept in touch with our Society. Last year he began, for the first time, to ask other doctors to give after Christmas a systematic course of lectures for our nurses. It was rather hard upon me that I had to be away just the whole time when one of my greatest desires found its fulfilment. Most of the lectures were given in our office, some in the lecture hall of a private hospital.

So it was not the course, but the place, which made such an event this year so important. We got for the first time the small hall of the Kaiserin "Friedrich-Haus für das aertzliche Fortbildungswesen." This house was built a few years ago as a remembrance of the great interest of Empress Frederick in the educational progress of the medical profession. As foundress of the Victoria House, the training school of nurses for the first of the four large Berlin Municipal Hospitals, she had 25 years ago shown her great interest in our profession, and so it seems quite proper for our lectures to take place in this house of remembrance. I wonder if other countries have anything like this wonderful building. In the quarter of Berlin where all the University Hospitals are, it is erected in a pure, antique style. The first thing is that everybody can turn to it for information about all sorts of medical studies and examinations, then there is a large museum and an exhibition of medical and technical requirements of every kind; and last, not least, there are a large and a small

lecture hall, as well as many smaller rooms for the study of Röntgen and scientific photography and laboratories for the different branches of medical science. The State uses some of the rooms to make its large collection of medical demonstration objects accessible to the whole profession. I think this house so interesting that I have asked a friend to study it and tell you about it later on, and I hope then to send you a picture of it for the Journal.

You can imagine what I felt when a hundred of our nurses met in this place for the first time. But, alas, how tired and worn they all looked! Shall I live to see the time when to be a nurse does not mean to have broken health in Germany?

Dr. Israel gave a lecture on general surgery, and other lectures are to follow every alternate Friday on the following subjects:—The nursing of cases of abdominal surgery, the nursing of infants, hysteria and epilepsy, first aid, the nursing of heart and kidney diseases, the nursing of malignant fever cases, and the nursing of chronic cases.

In connection with our Dresden Branch lectures are given the nurses on the first Sunday afternoon of every month, some of them by doctors, some of them by friends on different topics. On November 7th I shall be there, and tell them of our Congress.

This month is full of interesting events. On the 13th of October I took part with two other members of our Committee in the opening celebration of a new school for church mission work for women. Besides arranging religious lectures, this school will give an insight into all kinds of social problems and work, theoretically and practically, and the course is to last at least a year or two to make the training worth while and the women of real use in the different posts they will fill later on. On the 20th the King of Württemberg opened in Tübingen the High School for Medical Mission Workers, of which one building is intended for women doctors and for nurses to study midwifery. I mentioned this institution in our Congress report on mission work. Germany is fortunate to have it.

In Berlin the newly founded German League of Women inaugurated the first lectures on political economy for women in the Prussian House of Diet, with a simple celebration in which 500 people took part. After a short speech by the President, Frau von Alten, one of our Parliamentarians said:—"These lectures should expiate a sin of omission. It was impossible that one half of the nation should be left out in connection with all the questions of political economy and not know anything about them. Every day the claims of the mental, scientific, and also of the political life of women increases, and so it was high time to equip them for the combat. The German League of Women was founded, not to foster one-sided party spirit, but to stand above parties, and men might learn from this League of Women that there was something higher than party spirit."

Does not that sound as if there was some hope for womanhood in Germany? or it is again only words, words, like so many we have heard before? At least there is some mental life in all these schools and lectures, and they mean progress for the mind and work of women!

AGNES KARLL.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)