

sed by lay nurses in civil hospitals. In those countries the nurses are not trained to be simply of use to the hospital to which they belong, but with a view to serving the sick in general. During three years of training the nurse learns that which fits her for her calling in the world. Then she may nurse for several years outside the hospital, and later, when she has gained experience and insight, she may return to work in the hospital, often as Sister or Matron. In the best London hospitals the average is one nurse to 2-3 patients, night and day duty combined; in such hospitals the health of the nurses is good. In other hospitals, where the average is one nurse to 5 patients, there are complaints as to the state of health of the nurses. Here in Germany the average number of patients entrusted to one nurse varies between 10-20, very seldom is the number as low as 5. The insufficient number of nurses is in itself an explanation of the state of health existing among those employed in this profession; it also stands to reason that the attendance on patients is quite inadequate. The bad economic system is such as to deter better elements from entering the profession, whilst by so doing they make it easy for a large percentage of inferior workers to take it up. Sister Agnes Karll closed her speech by pointing out how this state of affairs could be amended: careful health test before entering the profession, probationers to have attained the age of at least 21, wholesome diet, properly regulated night-service, sufficient leisure, and timely notice of physical and mental ailments. Naturally these measures require money in order to carry them out. Sister Agnes said she cherished the hope of the German Nurses' Association being able to help many who had given their health in nursing others, by founding homes of rest for the ailing and aged, in company with women of other callings.

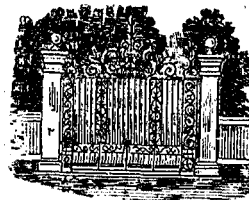
After an interesting discussion, a resolution was unanimously passed to present a petition to the Reichstag, begging that either by a special Bill or additional clause in the statutes pertaining to employment, the conditions of service for female nurses may be so regulated as to correspond with modern views. Also to ask the municipal authorities to further consider the conditions of female nurses, weighing the fact that public welfare depends on a good and efficient staff of nurses. The meeting demanded State inquiry into the existing conditions of female nurses.

Soon after the meeting there appeared incidentally in a ministerial paper an order from the Regierungspräsident of Potsdam, von der Schulenburg, to the effect that in all hospitals pertaining to his district, the work of female nurses shall be regulated so as not to exceed 10-10½ hours daily. This proves that state authorities are turning their attention to the question of overwork in the nursing profession. Unfortunately, the additional remark: "that the complaints of overwork uttered by nurses probably originate with those who are either physically unfit for their work, or who lack the spirit of renunciation," shows how little accurate knowledge exists as to the real state of affairs.

GERMANY.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



As Sir George Kemp will move the second reading of the Woman Suffrage Bill in the House of Commons on May 5th, it behoves all women to support him by bringing as much pressure to bear as possible on Members of Parliament before that date, so that the probable majority in its favour may be as large as possible.

The Conciliation Committee for Woman Suffrage of which Lord Lytton is Chairman, state that 50 city or town councils have petitioned or passed resolutions in favour of their Bill, which would confer votes on women householders, who number about a million.

In connection with the draft Order of the Home Office, varying the legal hours of the employment of dressmakers during the months of May and June, Mr. Masterman, Under Secretary for the Home Office, received a deputation at the House of Commons, in opposition to the Order, from the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs, the Women's Trade Union League, and other bodies. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., and Mrs. Tennant, representing the Industrial Law Committee, mentioned that the Queen had expressed a wish that her own dresses should not involve overtime on the part of the workers concerned. In reply, Mr. Masterman said that if the statements made to him that the draft Order would be very harmful to the interests, health, and recreation of the great majority of women concerned, it would not be confirmed. The Home Secretary has now announced that this will not be done.

At the Irish National School Teachers' Conference at Bangor, County Down, last week, the President (Mr. George O'Callaghan) drew attention to an announcement by the Board of Education that all married women teachers would be required, during the period preceding and succeeding childbirth, to absent themselves from schools for three months and provide qualified substitutes at their own expense. The President said they would take care that such a rule was not put into operation. A resolution was adopted demanding its immediate withdrawal.

In the Class List issued by the Moderators in the Honour School of Greek and Latin Literature at Oxford University, the women competing are placed as follows:—

Class II.—Madeline Giles, Somerville College; Charlotte St. H. Griffith, St. Hilda's Hall; Alice Horsman, Somerville College.

Class III.—Hilda B. Gibson, Somerville College; Lily O. Parsons, St. Hilda's Hall; Eileen C. Purdon, Society of Oxford Home Students; Julia Tugwell, St. Hugh's College.

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