

SELF-HELP AND SOCIAL POLITICS.

The second report, "Self-help and Social Politics," read by Fräulein Charlotte Reichel, Berlin, gave the development of the social position of nurses in Germany. The fees for nurses differ in the various organisations. The fees for deaconesses are 105 marks yearly, for the nurses of the Red Cross Associations 300 to 600 marks are mentioned, the nurses of the municipal hospitals get a salary from 420 to 720 marks in the year. The German Nurses' Association works to raise the salary, and is often successful, especially with clinics and in private nursing. The social requests of the German Nurses' Association concerning the Assurance Bill are as follows:—Admittance to the Accident Assurance Bill and admittance to the new Assurance Bill for civil servants. In Germany municipal hospitals have generally pension funds for nurses. After ten years of work they get a pension if they are invalids. The nurses seldom stay long enough in hospitals to get this promised pension, and the Nurses' Association wants to make the future of nurses independent from the care of the hospitals.

The requests concerning the social position of nurses were fixed in ten sentences:—

1. Ten hours of duty.
2. Separate nurses for day and night duty.
3. Three years of education.
4. Post-graduate courses for matrons and teachers.
5. The employment of graduate nurses only in positions of responsibility in public hospitals.
6. To put down to nurses' account the service done in other hospitals, when changing sphere of action.
7. Admittance to the Accident Assurance Bill.
8. Admittance to the Assurance Bill for civil servants.
9. Allowance for board during holidays.
10. Official inquiry concerning the social position of nurses.

THE ORGANISATION OF NURSES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN GERMANY.

In the evening Sister Agnes Karll read a report on "The Organisation of Nurses in Foreign Countries and in Germany." The reporter referred to the extraordinarily well organised nurses' associations in America and England, combined with German nurses in the "International Council of Nurses." The American and English organisations afford the best example that the highest idealism of vocation may easily be combined with economic self-responsibility, especially if the latter is well founded. The German organisations differ very much from the American and English ones. The religious and philanthropic organisations are very extended in Germany. Their point of view of vocation differs so much from the ideas of our modern Nurses' Association, that it is quite impossible to work in common. The German nation only begins to become familiar with the nurse who struggles for economic self-responsibility. German nurses are very happy to belong to the International Council of Nurses, and the meeting in Cöln, in

August, 1912, will help them to make progress. The report of Sister Karll was followed by a long discussion.

In the morning of the 7th the nurses visited the principal parts of the Exposition, led by Dr. Flachs, a friend of the association, and in the afternoon Prof. Dr. Kraft showed them the famous Lahmann Sanatorium, "Weisser Thirsch." At Loschwitz Hotel they had a delicious tea with many greetings and speeches.

CHARLOTTE VON CAEMMERER.

STATE REGISTRATION IN QUEENSLAND.

As we go to press news comes that nurses' registration, as part of the Public Health Amendment Act, has been introduced into the Queensland Parliament. It seems to have been well under weigh before it came to the knowledge of the Queensland Branch of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association. A special meeting of the Council was hastily summoned and amendments adopted, the two most important of which provides for the representation of the nurses on the Board which it is proposed shall govern them. This proves how important it is that in every country where State Registration of Nurses is not yet in force a Nurses' Organisation shall hold a watching brief in their professional interests, a duty vigilantly performed by the officers of the Society for State Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom. We shall refer to the Queensland Bill at greater length next week.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, STATE OF NEW YORK.

By the kindness of Miss A. W. Goodrich we have received the report of the Education Department of the State of New York for the current year, which, pursuant to law, is submitted to the Legislature by the Chancellor of the University (Mr. Whitelaw Reid) and the Commissioner of Education (Mr. Andrew S. Draper). In addition to the report of the Department it included the 124th annual report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with many thanks the following donations to the funds of the Society:—Ella, Lady Simeon, £1 1s.; Miss Theodora Unwin, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Shuter, 10s.; Miss S. A. Villiers, 5s.

NURSES' PROTECTION FUND.

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