Two things more we came to see, and these were shown to us. First the little corner room, with its two windows, occupied by Florence Nightingale during her visits to the Home, now the school for teachers.

First we looked up at the flower-decked windows, draped for this happy day with the English colours, and then we were permitted to ascend the little staircase and pass into the simple little room, where one looks out over lovely flower gardens and meadows to where the Rhine flows swiftly, an artery of never-ceasing traffic, carrying its rich freight to and from the

Tust here south. at this very window no doubt Florence Nightingale sat and saw clearly, with pro-phetic vision, the ofthe coming modern nurse, trained and taught upon the logical principles which stand as firmly to-day as when she laid them down fifty years ago.

The Sister in charge of this department, Sister Julie Borges, was quite a revelationso bright and upto-date in thought and manner-and deeply interested in all that concerned Florence Nightingale. deed, later-when we had been hospitably entertained with cakes and coffee — she was invited, and consented, to address us on her personal relations with

Miss Nightingale. She told how she came to London, and could find no one who knew her address!—[If she had only known of our International Office]—and how she at last found her in her house in South Street. After refreshment, she was admitted to the large room—where she found Miss Nightingale in bed—behind a black and silver screen, placid and beautiful, wearing a lace scarf over her head; and, after delivering her greeting from Kaiserswerth, Miss Nightingale told her she should never forget the kindness she had received there. When told she was called "The Queen of Nurses," she gave a little smile, but turned from the subject, and asked her to join

in prayer. At parting, she sent flowers to Frau Disselhoff, whose greetings had been brought to her. In conclusion, Sister Julie said: "God removes His workmen, but He carries on His work; and that you are all assembled here to-day is a sign to me that the good work of Florence Nightingale goes on."

We also paid a visit to the historic little Garden House—the Cradle of Kaiserswerth institutions, where the joyous Friedrike "destined to become the mother of the revived apostolic order of deaconesses, and the immediate ancestress of modern nursing," began her wonderful work as

the first House Mother. Here she admitted the young convict Minna, "who did her more good than iron and quinine"; cared for children, and received her two first probationers; and here she planned out relief for the sick.

The Garden House is now used as a shrine for the marble bust of Pastor Fliedner—and on its walls hangs the exquisite drawing of the dead Friedrike; and pictures also of the second wife, Karoline—a sacred little spot!

Each group of nurses visited the various institutions at Kaiserswerth—in charge of a pastor or sister. We fortunately fell to the charge of a very charming and intelligent deaconess, Sister

deaconess, Sister Louisa; and imagine with what pleasure it became known that she was the grand-daughter of Pastor and Friedrike Fliedner! As she spoke English fluently, she made a delightful cicerone; and explained lucidly the various branches of work—housed in 24 different buildings: The School for Domestic Training of Young Girls; the Penitentiary; the School for Teachers; the Hospital for the Sick; the beautiful Mother House; the School for Deaconesses; the Farm; and many other departments. Then we begged for her photograph, and received the charming group reproduced, Sister Louisa on the right, and her sisters—three grand-children of Friedrike and Pastor



SISTER LOUISA AND HER SISTERS.

previous page next page