

For every division containing twenty-two patients there is a nurse, a probationer, and a maid.

Here, too, the care is not confined only to those who are ill, for one part of the building—or, to be quite correct, one building (for there are many built about nice gardens)—is devoted to the care of the aged poor. Daddies and grannies have their homes together, sit on the verandahs, and chat and take their meals *en famille*.

They looked so happy and contented in their little rooms. The sweet faced matron and the gentle looking nurses, some so like the pictures of the Madonna, all so enjoyed the good work they have undertaken, that quite reluctantly we took leave, after a most acceptable and sumptuous tea, hoping that some day we may meet again.

THE CITY CRÈCHE.

The City Crèche, at 20, Georgstrasse, is another interesting institution which was open for our inspection in Cologne.

The babies are brought from 6.30 to 7 a.m., their clothes are changed, and twice a week they are bathed. They are kept until 7 or 8 in the evening. Once a week they are all weighed. They are fed five times during the day, but the mothers are encouraged to breast feed them as much as possible. So anxious are the authorities to induce the mothers to feed their babies naturally that the city pays every poor mother who does so 8s. a week so long as she continues this method. Also, she pays only about 10d. per week for her baby at the Crèche instead of nearly 1s. 8d. paid by the others.

There is accommodation for fifty or sixty children. Here, too, there is a large verandah upon which the cots are wheeled and the older children play. Open air treatment is being practised in all the public institutions, and large verandahs are seen everywhere, and they are well occupied when weather permits.

In the babies' dining-room was a low circular table with seat attached, where the little ones have their meals. Lavatories, too, were arranged of a size for the wee occupants of the house. In fact, everything was thought of for the comfort and well being of the future generation.

A member of the Ladies Committee attended here, as elsewhere, to explain, interpret and direct, willing to render to all as much assistance as possible.

Every member of the Congress is much indebted to the Cologne Ladies Committee, who gave themselves up so entirely to the entertainment and care of their numerous guests. MARY BURR.

ST. ANTONIUS HEIM.

As a member of the International Congress of Nurses, having charge of a large children's hospital, I was anxious to see some of the institutions for children in Cologne.

The first one we visited was St. Antonius Heim, where about seventy little orphans are looked after by the nuns. They are all children who

have lost one parent, and in many cases both. We were shown into a class-room where about forty small boys and girls were being taught by a sympathetic nun. They are all dressed in neat, plain clothes, and wore a simple pinafore made of holland, cut square at the neck, and without any frills or pleats. We saw many of these later on and were told that all school children in Germany are expected to wear a pinafore, which seems a very clean, sensible idea. The little ones greeted us in a friendly way, and sang us a song accompanied with pretty actions, such as we see in kindergarten classes in England.

We were then shown the babies' ward. Rows of bassinets held tiny mites, some very rickety and ill-nourished, reminding us painfully of the small patients who fill so many of our cots at home. The cradles stood on wooden stands, so that the babies were protected from draughts, and we were amused to see on the top of each cradle a miniature edition of the feather bed which is such a familiar feature of every German Hotel. We wondered if these were not occasionally found reposing on the floor, as the baby increased in strength and vigour.

The dormitories for the bigger children held rows of neat white cots, and we were also shown the store-room, where the plain, neat little costumes are supplied for each child. The rooms were large and well lighted, and a beautiful garden surrounded the home, which is situated in a poor, barren-looking district, and gay window-boxes made it a bright spot of colour.

THE MUNICIPAL MILK DEPÔT.

We afterwards visited the well-kept Municipal Milk Depôt, where the milk is prepared and issued to many babies, both in hospital and in their own homes. We saw the bottles thoroughly washed and sterilised and the milk bottled in sensible, broad-based bottles, which are delivered daily to any mother who has received an order from the doctor.

The courteous guide who showed us round appeared embarrassed when we asked how often the milk was delivered, so much so that we feared we were asking for State secrets, but it appeared that his confusion arose from not wishing to offend our susceptibilities, as he remarked later that he must not tell the English that they worked on Sundays!

We went on to see the beautiful Jewish Hospital, which is thoroughly up to date, and fitted with every modern convenience. Here we were most hospitably received by the Matron, who showed us every part of this fine building, and afterwards entertained us to tea, served in elegant glasses, with cakes, etc., of a most inviting kind.

In this Hospital there were no babies. A few older children; but some delightful old grannies who received us with the greatest cordiality were especially interesting, one old lady of 97 declaring that, if she were a little younger, she should come to England and return our visit!

S. A. V.

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