

of your reception, first by the porter and then by the Sisters and everyone belonging to the place; you perceived a subtle influence, with which you either felt in harmony, or else which jarred upon you, and to which you could even feel antagonistic. When you met the Matron you would no doubt understand why you felt as you did. In this influence lay the chief significance of the Matron. The tone and tenor of the hospital was as much her work as the supervision of the nursing, the housekeeping, and the linen-room. She should be the soul and spirit of the place, and had—her position given—a position most enviable, and a great power for good in all the departments of the little world which was hers.

#### RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was then proposed by Miss B. Kelly, Matron of Dr. Steevens' Hospital Dublin, who said she spoke after twenty-one years' experience as a Matron, and was seconded by Miss Helen L. Pearse, and carried unanimously.

"Whereas Florence Nightingale declared that a woman, herself trained in nursing, must be at the head of every nursing staff, and must have full charge of the teaching and discipline of the staff, and whereas this truth has been testified to by every succeeding generation of nurses, be it resolved that we in this meeting declare our complete and unshakable adherence to this principle, and earnestly urge upon hospital administrations to give proper scope and extent to the Matron's sphere in order that she may best fulfil her duties both of teaching, of supervision and of disciplinary control."

The Chairman said we had heard much during the afternoon of the great responsibility of the Matron, but we had not heard one word about the training which was to qualify her for the fulfilment of her duties. A special curriculum was very much needed to enable trained nurses to qualify as Superintendents of nurse training schools, and as domestic administrators in hospitals.

The first step in this direction had been taken in England by the War Office. In the Military Nursing Service a Sister was not eligible for promotion to a Matron's post until she had passed through a prescribed course of special training, and given evidence of her ability to teach and impart knowledge. In the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, an excellent system had been inaugurated by the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, which was supported by hospital authorities, of granting to trained nurses a Matron's Certificate after a special course and examination, before they were considered eligible for a Matron's post.

No such systematic preparation was available in England—or required—outside the Military Nursing Service; but a very thorough course was obtainable at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, in connection with the Department of Nursing and Health, under the direction of Miss Nutting.

## THE GERMAN INSTITUTION AND HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE JEWISH CHILDREN'S HOME.

It is well known that Jews are most generous in caring for their co-religionists. It was our privilege, in addition to the Jewish Hospital, to see another of their institutions in Cologne—the Children's Home. The Home is a large, well-built institution situated somewhat on the outskirts of the city.

On arriving, we were shown into the dining room, which was most tastefully and comfortably furnished, from which opened a large salon sparsely furnished, and which we understood was used by the children on wet days. All the floors were covered with what seems to be the usual floor covering in Cologne hospitals and institutions—well polished and perfectly laid linoleum. On the walls were hung a few pictures, the whole giving an impression of comfort, light and air. After waiting a few minutes a lady entered and acted as guide.

The girls are housed on the first floor where, under efficient guidance, they are taught practical economy, as they are entirely responsible for the care of their own quarters. We saw them washing, ironing, folding, and doing all the ordinary work of the day. The dormitories appeared somewhat crowded, but fear of insufficient air was removed when we heard that all slept with open windows.

The next floor is occupied by the babies, some being in cradles, older ones on the verandah singing their little action songs for the pleasure of the visitors, all so bright and happy, and most interested in the crowd of foreign ladies. The Home was founded by Frau Phato and two other ladies, the present director being Herr Marcus Phato, son of the former, who, speaking in excellent English, most kindly explained everything, answering our numerous questions most patiently.

The children need not be orphans, if necessitous that is sufficient qualification. They are taken at any age from ten days old. Girls are kept until 16 years, and boys 14 years of age. The girls are taught everything necessary to make them efficient domestic servants, and the boys are apprenticed to trades or put to other work for which they show inclination. All are given the usual education required by the State.

Older girls are taken for one year to train in domestic economy, but these pay 25 or 30 marks a month. Another department is the crèche for the children of working mothers. These children are kept separate from the others, and are fed, amused and taught by kindergarten methods in a large playground or play room, according to the weather. About 50 come daily, their parents paying (if they can) about 7 pence a week. All the babes are put to rest for an hour or two after dinner on long low carpet chairs. The work is not confined exclusively to Jewish children, but Christians are taken also, but are kept only until two years of age.

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