

Still another branch of the work is the soup kitchen, where any needy person can get as much as he can eat for about 2½d. of soup, vegetables and a morsel of meat. We saw the preparations for dinner in the exquisitely clean and well-appointed kitchen, and but for the want of time would have been tempted to accept the kind invitation to try it.

THE DEACONESS HOME AT FREIBURG.

Passing through Freiburg gave me the opportunity to pay a short visit to the Deaconess Home. My welcome was assured, because the Matron had been to the Congress at Cologne (welcome news), and in a few minutes there entered a tall dignified lady, with the sweetest sympathetic face imaginable. A glance of recognition, and immediately I felt at home, in spite of the difficulty of language.

The operating theatre I could not visit, as it was in use, but I saw the wards, none of which contained more than eight beds, also the private rooms, some of which have two beds, for which the patients pay 6 marks a day, others only one bed, for which up to 10 marks are charged. This includes board, heating and nursing. There is a Finsen light room, also a variety of baths.

The hospital contains 80 beds, medical, surgical and infectious blocks, post-mortem room and mortuary. There is also on one side of the beautiful garden the Mother House, where the deaconesses stay for rest or when ill. There are 160 belonging to the Home, many of whom do district nursing in the surrounding villages.

They are trained for 18 months in the hospital, and, as at Kaiserswerth, before being accepted as full deaconesses must spend five years in probation. When accepted the deaconess is cared for for the rest of her life. She is not, however, bound by vows, but is free to leave should she wish.

The Matron is appointed by the Committee, and is not elected by the Sisters over whom she is placed as Mother, the other head being, as is usual, a pastor, the endeavour being to carry out the idea of a family.

"What did you think of the Congress?" I asked. "I enjoyed it so much, but I am not a member." "Your rules do not permit you to belong to other Societies?" I suggested. "No. But the Congress will do much good."

MARY BURR.

Miss Chung, a Chinese nurse trained in London, and now working at Tientsin, writes of the Cologne Congress to Miss Dock: "I have tried every way to get the Government to send me, but now find it quite impossible. I am so disappointed, and had hoped up to the present I might be able to go, but the Government is still too unsettled and worried about the more important affairs of the country. Our Chinese people do not realize yet the value of good nurses, and we are working hard here, in our small hospital, to train nurses, and to teach the people how much a good nurse can do towards the comfort and relief of the sick."

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEAGUES.

The following letter has been received by the President of the National Council of Nurses:—

TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK (President),—The members of the International Council of Nurses, and especially those members in Germany and neighbouring countries, desire to thank most warmly and sincerely the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland for the very great and important part it took in ensuring the success of the Cologne Congress. The imposing numbers of the British and Irish delegations, the great support given to the programme, and the splendid contribution of historical characters to the Festival Play were all in keeping with your own wonderful London Congress, and held up and strengthened Sister Agnes' hands, winning the warm appreciation of Continental Nurses, and deeply impressing the visitors to the Congress.

We hope that these few words may assure your members that their labours were not in vain, but had much to do with the gratifying success of our meetings. With greetings from Sister Agnes. Karl,

I am, as ever,
Sincerely Yours,

L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary,
International Council of Nurses.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS.

The following impressions of Herr Regierungs- und Geh. Medizinalrat Dr. H. Hecker, of Strasbourg, have been translated and summarised for this journal by Miss L. L. Dock:—

To anyone who had the privilege of sharing in those days of the Congress in Cologne the memory of them must remain imperishable, and one must hope that the good seed then lavishly scattered will fall on good ground and bear fruit.

It was strangely impressive and moving to see this great body of older and of younger women rapt in devotion to their calling—the noblest, but one of the most difficult and exhausting which women can take up—distinguished by true womanliness, united by their ideals, nurses of twenty-three countries united as one people, all differences of race, colour or political divisions forgotten in the bond which made them as one.

Throughout all the conferences the tone of hopeful optimism and love of profession shone through the revelations of crushing burdens of weariness and overlading. We must believe that the indifference of the public and of Governments hitherto have not arisen from hardness of heart, but from the failure to understand, and that in 1915 Germany will be able to take her place beside England and New Zealand in regard to the conditions of the nurse's life and service.

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