

fifteen only ten hours. The girls learnt punctuality, order and conscientiousness under the guidance of the factory Sister. The first two factory Sisters in Germany were appointed in Gummersbach. All pioneer work was hard and demanded self-sacrifice. They gave it nobly. One was invalided before she reached the age of thirty, the other died of tuberculosis. It was worthy of notice that each girl working in the factory received a fair wage with a prospect of increase. Very industrious spinners received extra pay. Part of the money was put aside for the girl's board, the remainder was placed in her name in the savings bank. Besides the fifty employed in the spinning-shed, ten to fifteen were employed in the house work of the institution. These were changed every two to three months, and others from the shed took their place, so that during the year each girl passed through a course of domestic service—house-work, cooking, washing, sewing, &c. A great principle of the institution was that the girls were not taught to look upon the factory work as the one and only aim in life, but were encouraged to become useful members of society, and it was encouraging to know that many girls who had passed through the Sisters' hands were now clever and happy housewives, whilst others who were still working in factories were helping to raise the tone amongst their fellow-workers. True education must always rest on a religious foundation, free from narrowness, bigotry, or hypocrisy. The Sisters who worked in the house and factory belonged to the Evangelical Deaconesses' Union, Berlin-Zehlendorf. A seminary for training Sisters in Refuge work was in connection with the Institution.

#### THE NURSE WITH REGARD TO INFANT NURSING AND HER TRAINING FOR THIS WORK.

Sister Else Knoerich said that in no branch of social hygienic provision was the truth more evident of the saying "Prevention is better than cure" than in the care of infants. Woman's work in factory and workshop had often caused her to neglect her duties as wife and mother, and this had resulted in increased infant mortality. Of the two million children who were born annually in Germany, about 400,000 died before the completion of their first year. Thanks to the efforts of the health officers and political economists, the care of infants had, since the eighties, become a specialised branch of social work; and during the last twenty years there had been a steady decrease in infant mortality in the large towns. Charlottenburg was a most striking example. From 1891-1901 inclusive the infant mortality sank from 24.98 per cent. to 12.11 per cent. In 1909 Barmen, with 9.41 per cent., Elberfeld, with 10.40 per cent., Kassel, with 10.83 per cent., Schömberg, with 11.77 per cent., and Bremen with 12.02 per cent., had a still lower mortality of infants.

In the country, however, infant mortality was on the increase, from 8.1 per cent to 41.1 per cent. The causes were: (1) insanitary conditions; (2) the sending of milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit to

towns for sale, to the detriment of the country-people's nutrition; (3) the departure of men to the towns, leaving the field work to be done by women, not to speak of ignorance and unwillingness to adopt hygienic measures. Country districts were therefore a wide field of activity for the district nurse. Her first and most difficult task was to win the confidence of the country people. This could only be done by visiting them and giving them help and advice in time of need. Her duty would be to strictly superintend all foster-children and illegitimate children up to the completion of their sixth year, who were entrusted to the care of relations. Besides, it should be her aim to interest women's unions in favour of infant care and to gain their support. The most important part of the country care of infants were the mothers' unions ("Beratungsstellen"), which, owing to local conditions and lack of means, were at present difficult of attainment.

The work of a district nurse necessitated a threefold training. Firstly, knowledge of nursing work in general, for though her speciality was care of infants, yet she should be able to give advice and help to mothers in all questions pertaining to health or sickness. Secondly, the necessary special knowledge of the modern care and feeding of infants, which could best be acquired in a children's clinic or infants' home, managed on modern lines. Thirdly, instruction in social work by attending social courses for women. In order to superintend foster and illegitimate children, she must know the laws and regulations pertaining to them, so as to be able to take the necessary measures when required. Thus well equipped, the knowledge that she was serving her fellow creatures and the coming generation would give her support and encouragement.

#### NURSES' WORK IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF INFANTS.

In speaking of social work in general, the management and care of infants in particular, Fraülein Schubert laid stress on the indispensability of hospital training. The probationers were brought face to face with all classes and learnt to judge life from an aspect not possible to be seen at home, and every earnest worker learnt not only the technical side of her profession but expanded her sympathies and power of understanding without which all social work was useless. Great power and great responsibility lay in the hands of the district nurse. By teaching ignorant mothers, she could stem the tide of infant mortality and lay the foundation for a healthy generation in the future. The demand for such nurses was steadily on the increase and it was our duty to see that trained, cultured women were rendered competent to fill them by being well grounded and thoroughly trained in their profession. As this work brought the nurse into contact with all classes, and also comprised much secretarial work, it was of vital importance that

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