

the nurse be a woman of education and refinement. With regard to the technical part of the work, Fraülein Schubert was of opinion that a longer time than the probation year in hospital was necessary, and strongly advocated a period of work in maternity wards, and tuberculosis wards or polyclinic, where, by observing the numerous cases, a nurse became familiar with dangerous symptoms, and acquired the power of judging when medical aid was advisable. Further, a course of training in the care of infants should be taken in one of the modern children's hospitals, under the guidance of a good instructor. It was further advisable for the probationer to attend the consulting hours in different crèches, to visit the mothers in their homes, and also to work in the crèches and milk kitchens.

In order to really help, the outdoor nurse should know "everything." She must be able to answer all the questions put to her by timid mothers and smooth away objections by straightforward and clear explanations. Fraülein Schubert pointed out that the outdoor nurse is as yet a pioneer in this special branch of work and that it was often necessary, in order to further the cause, that she should be able to speak well and fluently on the work in hand. This was the most difficult part of the nurse's business, but when her heart was in her calling, her tongue would be eloquent in its service. In order to aid by speaking, she must however know her subject thoroughly and be cognisant of that branch of legislation bearing upon it.

THE WORK OF THE ANTI-CONSUMPTION LEAGUE IN GERMANY.

Sister Taubert, who presented the paper on the work of the Anti-Consumption League in Germany, said that two things had had a marked influence on the tuberculosis question: (1) the discovery, thirty years ago, of the tuberculosis bacillus by the great German investigator, Doctor Robert Koch; (2) the social laws which rendered the struggle with tuberculosis possible. The hope that the injection of tuberculin would prove sufficient was vain. But attention had been aroused and the anti-consumption movement set in. The result of Dr. Brehmer's and Dr. Dettweiler's treatment (hygienic diet) caused a number of sanatoria for tuberculosis to be opened in Northern Germany, and the duty of providing such institutions for those with small means became evident. In 1895 a committee was formed by the Red Cross Society, which founded the Anti-Consumption League. In the same year the consumptive homes of the Berlin-Brandenburg Association and Red Cross Society were erected. The National Insurance Act was also the cause of the State opening consumptive homes for working people, in order to lessen the burden incurred by eventual pensioning. In 1902 the first international Anti-Consumption League was formed. Three years later the first consumptive home for women was opened at Vogelsang, near Magdeburg, and at the same time, by desire

of the Empress, one for children at Hohenlychen, which was principally occupied by children from Berlin and Hamburg. The experience thus gained had influence on the Insurance Act of 1912 and that which was to come into force next year. Annually in Germany 90,000 persons died of consumption. Ten times as many—900,000—suffered from the disease, and owing to legislation ten per cent. received gratis medical treatment, medicines and cures in consumptive homes. The German Empire owned to-day 136 such homes, 23 specially for children, with accommodation for 1,400 beds. In 90 per cent. the results were favourable. There were also 127 homes for hopeless cases, with a tariff of 1 mk. 20 to 1 mk. 80 daily. In Silesia there were the most "Homes for Observation" of cases threatened with consumption. There were many other means of combating the disease, such as outdoor schools, shelters, &c. Ten years ago "Lungen fürsorgestellen" were opened, from the conviction that the entire surroundings and work of the patient needed supervision. The work of those employed in these was the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis in the home, to protect the healthy from infection and to teach mothers the dangers incurred by lack of cleanliness and properly cooked food. There were now 1,250 of these "Lungen fürsorgestellen" in the German Empire. In each there was a doctor and a "Fürsorgeschwester." After the doctor had examined the patient he gave directions to the Sister and then her work began. It was she who was in touch with all authorities from the Board of Health inspector down to the midwife. With energy and endless patience she enforced the medical directions and brought cleanliness and order into the home. If the patient was bed-ridden she procured, when possible, an isolated room, the rent of which the family mostly paid. Last year 1,000 such rooms were rented in Berlin alone. She was responsible for the final, as well as the daily, disinfection. She persuaded invalid pensioners to enter a suitable sick-home. In 1911 only 40 per cent. of tuberculosis patients died in their own homes, in contrast to 80 per cent. of ten years ago. Thorough knowledge of the science of nursing, political economy and the conditions of State insurance were necessary. The "Fürsorgetätigkeit" had opened a new field for women, and the well-trained women whose profession it was were preferred to those who filled honorary posts and gave their services gratis. The Woman's National Union had given this branch of woman's work its warm support. In Solingen a tuberculosis fund raised at the time of the Emperor's Silver Wedding rendered assistance to applicants for consumptive homes, brine baths and milk diet; lent beds, folding chairs, &c.; and provided the parish nurse with funds to pay the washerwoman and charwoman. It was owing to the work of regular instruction in cleanliness and disinfection that the district of Solingen had now only a normal death rate.

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