

It was in 1902 that, writing in a German magazine, she said:—"The need of an organisation for the hundreds of nurses who had withdrawn from the existing orders had been widely realised in the last few years. At the meeting of the National Council of Women it was first openly urged by the widow of Professor Krukenberg, Bonn, and agreed to by the two hundred and thirty representatives of eighty thousand German women, that nursing should be looked upon as a skilled pursuit for women who desired industrial freedom, in contradistinction to the conservative view that it must either be monopolised by religious or charitable bodies, or left to ignorant persons."

Miss Dock relates how British and American nurses met Sister Karll, who had been working out her problems unaided, in Berlin in 1904 for the first time. "To find that fellow workers of other lands were ready and waiting to draw her into an international circle whose members all, with interests and aims alike, strengthened one another by moral support, sympathy, and encouragement, was a great joy and a most unexpected source of help to her. The visitors, in their turn, were impressed and stirred by the wholeheartedness with which she had dedicated all her powers to the upbuilding undertaken as her life work. Trained in one of the best Red Cross Hospitals, with an inheritance that made leadership natural, possessed of a far-seeing intellect and keen judgment, and with a real passion for bringing help to the individual, Sister Agnes lived modestly on a small private income and devoted time, strength, and brains freely to the service of nurses."

When the German Nurses' Association was founded in January, 1903, it was Herr Geh. Rath Aschenborn who emphatically advised that no one but nurses should be placed on the governing board, for, he said, "The members of a profession are the only ones who can judge correctly in the affairs of their profession." It is a sidelight on German legislation to read Sister Karll's note, "We had a membership list of thirty to take to the Chief of Police with our announcement."

In regard to the government of the Association, Sister Karll is careful to point out that "the many 'bad examples,' both at home and abroad, must ever prevent us from falling back into that indifference which tends to let the control of our work drop out of our hands because it is easier not to take responsibility. There is no such thing as independence without responsibility."

It is interesting to note as in this country, so in Germany, the dislike of hospital authorities to self-governing associations of nurses. We read, "The increasing shortage in the numbers of nurses was the usual starting point of negotiations between us, which were often broken off by mistrust of our form of organisation. The City hospital in Frankfort-a-M took our probationers willingly from 1904 until 1907, when it suddenly forbade its accepted pupils to remain members of our Society. Their reason for this step is hardly clear, for no hospital needs to fear our self-government. . . . We are at all times the best champions of the hospitals."

Referring to the foundation, in 1906, of *Unterm Lazarus Kreuz*, Sister Karll wrote, "Only those who have themselves founded a paper know what a progressive step it is for a society to have its own organ, but they also alone can know what work, anxiety, and responsibility it means for the editor. One thing is certain, such a paper can only be of real use to nurses, and can only develop on true lines when controlled by members of the profession." An interesting instance of the thoroughness of German methods is to be found in the story of a book by Fraulein Reichel, who, while taking the course in a *Handels-Hochschule*, was required to prepare a thesis on "The Legal Status of the Nurse." When she began to make inquiries about this, she found a barrier in the rule rigidly imposed on nurses never to speak of any of the details of their work or training, so she entered a hospital as a probationer, to find out for herself. Her conclusion was: "Except in the penal code nurses have been forgotten by the law-makers," and Sister Agnes asks, "How many of us knew before this that we, too, as well as the midwives, stand, as a famous midwife has said, with regard to certain penalties, 'with one foot in the grave and the other in prison.'"

WELCOME HELP.

Mrs. Bridges, always most generous, has sent £1 to the Society for State Registration of Nurses. Miss J. Grant sends 4s. from India, and Miss A. Henderson 4s. from Cape Town. When the Act is won, the few who year after year have denied themselves something, as they have done, to give financial support to this reform, will have cause to congratulate themselves upon their self-denial, and let us hope the many who will benefit by legislation, who have done nothing to help it on, will appreciate what they owe to the conscientious minority.

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