

1-1929

## The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 6, No. 1

Lutheran Deaconess Association

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# The Lutheran Deaconess

Official Organ of the Lutheran Deaconess Association  
within the Ev. Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America

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ST. LOUIS, MO., JANUARY, 1929.

No. 1.

## A BLESSING.

The Lord bless thee —  
With blessings manifold,  
With treasures new and old,  
With the rest that shall remain  
After all toil and pain,  
With His unchanging love,  
With wisdom from above,  
With His all-sufficient grace,  
With the shining of His face —  
The Lord bless thee.

And keep thee —  
Through weakness and through fear  
When danger draweth near,  
In His abiding joy  
No sorrow can destroy,  
In His most perfect peace,  
Where fretting care shall cease,  
'Neath the shadow of His wing,  
And from every evil thing —  
The Lord keep thee.

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT.

## SERMON DELIVERED AT INSTALLATION SERVICE, Fort Wayne, Ind., May, 1928.

*Text:* And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

*Matt. 25, 40.*

IN CHRIST JESUS BELOVED HEARERS, ESPECIALLY GRADUATES OF OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSSES: —

Three years ago you entered our school with the object of preparing yourselves for deaconess work in the Lutheran Church. You were prompted to do this, I take it, by sincere love to the Savior, in order to equip yourselves so much better to serve Him in serving your fellow-men and especially to be helpful in saving souls.

It is not God's will that women should serve in the pastoral office as ministers of the Gospel. This service of the public ministry

God has restricted to men. But women can and should be of help in the Gospel-service. Trained deaconesses especially can be of great service in the Church.

In our own particular church-body this branch of service has but recently been established; but it is by no means a new institution in the Church. In fact, we know from the Scriptures that there were deaconesses in the days of the apostles and that they rendered very valuable and blessed service to the cause of Christ. It is the example of those early deaconesses that you wish to follow.

To-day you publicly, before God and this assembled congregation, promise to serve the Savior in this office as long as it shall please Him to use your gifts, your talents, for this special work. In a solemn service you are being installed into the office of deaconesses, and the prayers of your fellow-Christians ascend to the throne of God asking Him to grant you fervent love and zeal to do your work, faithfulness in performing your duties, courage and strength in all difficulties, and richly to bless your labors for the salvation of many and unto the praise of His glorious name.

My object in addressing you is to be helpful, so that you may take up the duties of your calling with a joyful heart and do your work with a glad and willing spirit and thus be truly happy in your chosen profession. As a text I have chosen a word of the Savior which He will address on the Day of Judgment to those who in faith and love have served Him in this life. Speaking of the service which they have rendered to their fellow-men from love to Him, He will say: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

What a wonderful thought to have in mind in the performance of our duties as Christians, that our Savior and Master will address us in these words after faithfully performing the tasks He has assigned to us in this life! The world may judge the success of a person according to outstanding things which he has

achieved; Christ will judge it by the service rendered to Him through serving others. Every act of Christian love and mercy done unto others, whether it seem great or small in the eyes of men, Christ regards as a work of love done unto Him.

And in your chosen profession there is so much opportunity for service. Our Savior needs trained workers and also trained woman workers; in fact, there is much work to be done in Christ's kingdom that can best be done, yes, much that can only be done, by women who are trained for the work. In our foreign mission fields the Gospel cannot be brought to the women by our regular missionaries, who, because of the customs of the land, can have no access to them. There is also much work for trained woman workers in our city missions and in our large city parishes. We need trained women for the work in charitable institutions, in hospitals, old people's homes, orphan homes, etc. The urgent requests for deaconesses that are continually coming to us plainly show the need of such workers. You may rest assured that the time shall never come when there will be no work for you to do. If we had many times more graduates than we have, the danger of having no work would never confront you. There is most necessary work for you to do.

And it is a most blessed work in which you will be engaged. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren," Jesus will say to you on Judgment Day. Much of your work will be among those who are considered the least of Christ's brethren: the poor, the needy, the destitute, the sick, the unfortunate, the forsaken — people who are sorely in need of help, sympathy, and love. Indeed, that is blessed work. The world may take little notice of your work; it will mostly be work carried on in a quiet, unostentatious way; it may at times seem to become monotonous. But many a person will bless you for your love and kindness, will be exceedingly thankful to you for your ministry of mercy, and what you have done unto the least of Christ's brethren here will be recorded in heaven; for, if you are believing Christians, you will do it unto Christ. "Ye have done it unto Me," the Savior will say to those who have done deeds of mercy in the proper Christian spirit. You intend to go out to do the works of your calling in that spirit. Your heart's attitude to Christ is that of thankful love. You are saying to the Savior: —

Thee will I love, my Life, my Savior,  
Who art my best and truest Friend.

And you will add: —

Thee will I love,  
Not for the hope of high reward,  
For thine own sake, O Light Divine,  
So long as life is mine.

This love of the Savior, which finds expression in deeds of mercy, flows from faith in Christ. You would do unto Him whatever you do unto the least of His brethren. You have

learned to know Him as your best and truest Friend, as your Savior, who has laid down His life for your redemption and for the redemption of all men. You know Him as the Friend of souls, who has sought you and drawn you unto Himself. You know that for His sake, through faith in Him, you are children of God and heirs of eternal life. In this faith you have that peace and joy which the Savior alone can give. You are happy in knowing that you are God's dear children for Jesus' sake. You are of the mind of the author of one of our hymns who says: —

My heart for joy is springing  
And can no more be sad,  
'Tis full of mirth and singing,  
Sees naught but sunshine glad:  
The Sun that cheers my spirit  
Is Jesus Christ, my King;  
That which I shall inherit  
Hereafter makes me sing.

You would prove your love to Him by active service. You can serve Him only by serving your fellow-men. That you will do. No matter how lowly your service may be, that gives it worth, that makes it glorious and blessed work, that it is done unto the Savior.

And in still another respect your work will be work done unto the Savior. Your one great, outstanding purpose in all the work you will do will be the saving of immortal souls, to gain or reclaim for Christ souls that He has purchased with His blood. For this you were especially trained; that is the great, the all-determining purpose in your work: to be helpful in winning souls for Christ's kingdom, leading sinners to salvation. In all your work, also when ministering to the physical needs of the sick and suffering, your object above all else will always be the welfare of souls, the salvation of those whom you serve. There is no work that is more blessed.

And if you will ever feel the need of an incentive to enthusiasm for your work, to zeal, to faithfulness in performing your daily work, go to the Gospel of Christ; let it bring to your remembrance what your Savior has done, is doing, and in future will do for you. When you recall that to your mind, you will, I dare to say, be filled with new determination to be steadfast and immovable, to be faithful and zealous, and always to abound in the work of the Lord. And since you need His help and support in all your work, seek it in daily prayer.

And when you have thus labored for the Lord's cause, being a blessing unto many and truly happy because you are privileged to serve the Savior in your life-work, then, finally, the time shall also come when the Savior shall graciously receive you into His eternal home, where with a special reward of grace He will prove to you that no act of kindness done for His sake, and though it seemed ever so insignificant, has been overlooked or forgotten by Him.

And let us all, my beloved fellow-Christians, support the work of our deaconesses with our

prayers and gifts. Let us also remember these graduates in our prayers, asking God to be with them, to give them wisdom and strength for their work, cheer them in their trial, fill their hearts with love and zeal for their duties, and bountifully bless their labors to His glory and the salvation of many souls. Amen.

H. B. KOHLMEIER.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

October to December, 1928.

During the first week of October, 1928, the undersigned had occasion to speak on the progress of our deaconess work while attending the fall sessions of the Northern Indiana Pastoral Conference at Laporte, Ind. The congregation at Laporte, which is served by Pastor P. Eickstaedt, a man well known in the Central District, has been in sympathy with the deaconess cause ever since the Deaconess Association was organized. The undersigned has addressed the congregation at large and the ladies' aid in particular at various times on the necessity and the blessedness of deaconess work. Mr. T. M. Senne, principal of the day-school of St. John's Congregation at Laporte, serves as solicitor for memberships in the Deaconess Association.

A report of the proceedings of the Charities Conference was heard at the October meeting of the Fort Wayne Deaconess Ladies' Auxiliary, whose members are churching with the various Lutheran congregations of Fort Wayne and vicinity. The president, Mrs. O. Kucher, resides at New Haven, Ind. The ladies are busy sewing carpet-rags, which are woven into rugs, some of which are to be sold, while others are to be used in the Deaconess Home.

One of the duties of the superintendent obligates him to visit periodically the various deaconess training-schools. During these visits he avails himself of the opportunity of addressing the deaconess pupils and of giving lectures on the history of the office of the deaconess and the qualifications of a deaconess. A visit was made at Beaver Dam, Wis., the third week of November. Another object of these visits is to maintain close contact among the several training-schools and the main office. Matters of special importance were discussed with members of the Deaconess Hospital Board, of which Pastor L. Kirst is the president. Miss L. M. Thiele is matron of the hospital, and deaconess Martha Buchholz is Superintendent of Nurses. Miss Esther Tassinari, until recently a missionary deaconess with the Italian Lutheran mission at Hoboken, N. J., has temporarily been placed at Beaver Dam to serve as supervisor of the operating-room. Deaconess Gertrude Oberheu, who graduated at Fort Wayne in May, 1928, is the night supervisor. Deaconess Johanna Schmidt, a graduate of Bethesda, who took a year's training at Beaver Dam, is on general duty. The office is in charge of Miss G. Kirst.

As a rule, a visit at Beaver Dam is preceded or followed by a visit to our Bethesda Training-school at Watertown, Wis. Mr. L.

Pingel, superintendent of the institution, is always willing and ready to discuss matters concerning the Bethesda school and its graduates. The theoretical training is practically the same in the various schools. The practical training which the deaconess pupils get at Bethesda qualifies them particularly for service in charitable institutions, such as orphans' homes, old people's homes, and similar institutions. With but one exception our deaconesses serving in institutions are Watertown graduates. Their training, however, does not limit them to institutional work. We have graduates from Bethesda serving as parish-workers, and one is stationed in an orphanage of the Apache Indian Mission in Arizona.

The Beaver Dam and Fort Wayne graduates are well qualified for positions calling for a thorough knowledge of nursing, which is necessary if they wish to serve in hospitals and also in the medical mission endeavor in heathen countries. Our first deaconess in India, Miss Louise Rathke, was a graduate of Beaver Dam. Then followed three Fort Wayne graduates, Deaconesses Meta Schrader, Clara Mueller, and Elsie Mahler. The last two have recently been joined in holy wedlock with missionaries working in the same field.

A visit to our training-schools in Wisconsin frequently connects with a meeting of the officers of our Milwaukee Deaconess Branch Association. Mr. Theo. Dammann, Secretary of State, is president of this organization. After the retirement of Mr. H. L. Wedekind, who served the Milwaukee branch faithfully until 1928, Miss Helen Koepke, secretary of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, has been very active to enroll new members and to create new interest among those who have already joined. The members of the Milwaukee branch are requested kindly to send their dues to her office, located in the Stephenson Building, No. 301.

There are twelve deaconesses in training at Beaver Dam, nine at Watertown, and thirteen at Fort Wayne. The theoretical training follows the course of outlines prepared by Dr. P. E. Kretzmann. The chief subject is Study of the Scriptures. Church History and the History of Missions are also given considerable attention. We are very happy to learn that within a short time we shall have a handbook that will prove a great help in the study of social case work. A prospectus of this book is found in the present issue of our LUTHERAN DEACONESS. Recently one of our missionary deaconesses in India wrote us: "If we are permitted to offer a suggestion for our deaconesses in training, it is this—you cannot learn enough of the Bible if you wish to serve in foreign missions." We know of a missionary deaconess in one of our great American cities who told us the very same thing. If your desire is to win souls for Christ, you must acquaint yourselves above all things with His precious Word.

May the Lord continue to bless our deaconess training-school and our entire deaconess cause!

B. POCH.

## IN MEMORIAM.

It has pleased our heavenly Father to call to His eternal home another friend and interested worker in our Deaconess Cause, Mrs. Helen M. Riedel, beloved wife of Mr. J. M.



† Mrs. Helen Riedel. †

Riedel, well-known architect. She was born in New York City in January, 1873. Her maiden name was Achard. She was joined with Mr. Riedel in holy matrimony in May, 1902. The union was blessed with a son who is attending our Lutheran University at Valparaiso, Ind. The large number of memorial wreaths donated by relatives, friends, and various organizations are a tribute to the services she rendered in various departments of church-work. Due to her efforts the number of members from St. Paul's Church who joined the Deaconess Association increased from twenty-three to over one hundred within two years. She was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Deaconess Ladies' Auxiliary. Because of her cheerful disposition there were very few who suspected that she was not entirely well. Her solicitude for the success of our deaconess work can also be seen from the fact that before she went to the hospital, she asked Mrs. Bredemeier, wife of Teacher F. E. Bredemeier of St. Paul's, to step into her place if it should please God to call her away from her earthly labors. We are glad to report that Mrs. Bredemeier has kindly consented to serve as our solicitor in St. Paul's Church. The ladies' chorus of St. Paul's, of which our departed sister was a member, rendered several selections at the funeral services. Our sympathies are with the bereaved husband and son and other relatives and friends.

B. POCH.

#### MEMORIAL WREATH AND BEQUESTS.

On the 1st of November, 1928, we received a letter from which we quote the following: "In loving memory of my sainted mother, who passed into her eternal rest one year ago,

I wish to make a contribution of \$100 to the good cause of the Lutheran Deaconess Association. By word and deed mother taught me that it is more blessed to give than to receive. It was her wish that I should return one-tenth of my earnings to the Lord's work. It gives me real pleasure to do so, although it means that I must be careful how much I spend for myself. As you remember, my mother was a tireless worker for your association. Yours truly, Frieda Lohofener, R. N." May the Lord's blessing be with the kind donor!

Eight memorial wreaths were listed in honor of another tireless worker in behalf of our deaconess cause whose departure came as a great shock to all her friends—Mrs. J. M. Riedel, wife of the well-known architect J. M. Riedel. A brief sketch of her life is found in another column of this paper. The memorial wreath donors are: St. Paul's Ladies' Chorus, \$5; St. Paul's Ladies' Aid, German, \$15; Deaconess Ladies' Auxiliary, \$5; Hospital Ladies' Aid, \$5; club friends, \$10; nieces and nephews, \$10; Wehrenberg family, \$10; Mr. S. Achard, \$10; total, \$70. We wish to express our appreciation for these donations.

In memory of Mrs. Ph. Koehlinger, also a member of St. Paul's Church at Fort Wayne: Hospital Ladies' Aid, \$5; Flower Committee, \$5; Wehrenberg family, \$5. We wish to thank these friends also. The total of these memorial wreaths amounts to \$185.

B. POCH.

#### NEW COLORADO LUTHERAN HOSPITAL.

The signal success of the first Lutheran hospital in Colorado, which was opened a year ago at Alamosa and which is in charge of Dea-



Deaconess Selma Vogel,  
Lutheran Hospital, Yuma, Colo.

coness Clara Dienst, has served to encourage our brethren at Yuma also to build a hospital. The Alamosa hospital is located in the fertile San Luis Valley. Four deaconess nurses are

doing excellent work there, also along the line of missionary endeavor.

Miss Selma Vogel, who graduated from our Beaver Dam training-school in the fall of 1928, has been called to go to Yuma. May the Lord bless her labors of love!  
B. POCH.

### BEQUESTS.

Mr. Fred Wehrenberg, another well-known member of St. Paul's Church, who was ever ready to respond to appeals for help in church-work, has remembered our association in his will by designating \$500 for deaconess work. Again we say, "Thanks!" We are convinced that this as well as other bequests made in the interest of church-work were an expression of faith which prompted Brother Wehrenberg to act as a wise steward.

Recently we were notified through an attorney that a dear friend of our deaconess cause, Mrs. Katie Hansen, of Oakland, Cal., had set aside the sum of \$300 for the Deaconess Association. We hope to learn a little more about this kind donor by the time that the April issue of our paper is ready for the printer.

We have special reasons to be grateful because of these contributions. The financial returns for October and November did not compare favorably with the revenues of 1926 and 1927, and there were several large expenses to be met. In answer to our prayer the Lord has provided special revenues, reminding us at the same time of the familiar Epiphany lesson in which He calls to us: "O ye of little faith!"  
B. POCH.

### "THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN AS A SOCIAL WORKER."

This is the title of a book that will soon be on the market. We have read it in manuscript and we here express the hope that it will have a wide circulation. The author is no stranger to us. In his introductory remarks Dr. P. E. Kretzmann explains that this book was prepared at the request of the Lutheran Deaconess Association within the Synodical Conference. And that his object was to offer the principles of sociology from the standpoint of confessional Christianity. The intention of the author is to give the Christian social worker a knowledge of the field for practical purposes. The information here offered will give the proper basis upon which a Christian can form a judgment with regard to every case that is brought to the attention of the social worker; for not sentiment, but Christian knowledge should be the deciding factor in this work.

The plan of the book is sufficiently indicated by its table of contents. The introductory lessons offer a survey of the whole field of sociology from the standpoint of the Bible. Then the foundations of society are discussed, the home and the family first and thereupon the state. The relation of the Church to the other social organizations is next dealt with,

and finally the special problems of the Christian social worker are set forth in brief form. The concluding chapter deals with the approach in case work. City missionaries and pastors will find this book a wonderful help in training volunteer workers.

The book is published by the Lutheran Deaconess Association. The superintendent has long felt the need of a book of this kind, to be used in the training-schools of the association. Though it is not within the scope of our educational program to train specialists in social case work, we do welcome a book that presents the fundamentals of successful case work from the Biblical viewpoint. There will be two editions, the cloth-cover and the paper-cover edition. The price will be about one dollar for the cloth and eighty-five cents for the paper cover.  
B. POCH.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

At the Milwaukee-Waukesha Walther League Zone Rally it was resolved to turn the entire collection over to the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital at Beaver Dam. The collection amounted to \$86.44. Since we contemplate the building of an annex to provide for more private rooms, donations of this kind will surely be appreciated. Again we say, The Lord bless the kind donors!

We regret to report that one of our Fort Wayne deaconesses in training, Miss Esther Zuberbier, had to discontinue her studies, due to illness. She hopes to take up her training again after having had a good rest. May the Lord speed her recovery! Before training as a deaconess, she taught in the Christian day-school of Holy Cross Congregation at Milwaukee.

Deaconess Martha Breitenfeldt, who served for a time at the Concordia Home in Marwood, Pa., and since July of the past year at the old people's home at Arlington Heights, Ill., has asked for a temporary release in order that she might take a much-needed rest. We pray the Lord soon to restore her health.

In September, 1928, Deaconess Clara Mueller, stationed at Vadakangulam, India, became Mrs. S. Lang, and Deaconess Elsie Mahler, stationed at Trivandrum, India, became the bride of Missionary G. Hattendorf. The latter couple had planned to be married January, 1929. May the Lord bless their married estate! The erstwhile deaconesses have declared that they intend to continue their language studies, which will enable them to do real missionary work among the natives, especially among the women.  
B. POCH.

### Allerlei aus dem Arbeitsfelde.

Diakonisse Anna Schrader, die unsere Diakonissenschule in Watertown im Mai 1928 absolviert hat, wurde am ersten Sonntag im Oktober 1928 in der St. Paulskirche zu New York (G. König, Pastor) als Gemeindegewesener eingeführt. Sie hat sich schon ganz in die neuen Verhältnisse eingelebt. Der treue Gott segne ihre Tätigkeit in reichem Maße!

Diaconisse Selma Vogel, die unsere Diaconissenschule in Beaver Dam, Wis., im November absolviert hat, hat anfangs Januar ihren Dienst als Krankenpflegerin in Yuma, Colo., angetreten. Unsere Glaubensbrüder in Yuma, die bei der Gründung der Diaconissengesellschaft regen Anteil nahmen und eine schöne Summe zur Anschaffung eines Diaconissenheims beitrugen, freuen sich, daß wir ihnen bei der Gründung ihres Hospitals eine Diaconisse als Krankenpflegerin senden können. In dieser Stellung gibt es auch mancherlei Gelegenheit, Missionarbeit zu verrichten. Das hat die Erfahrung, die unsere Diaconissen im Lutherischen Hospital zu Mamona, Colo., gemacht haben, zur Genüge gezeigt. Gott setze auch diese Diaconisse zum Segen für viele!

Was unsere Diaconissenschulen betrifft, so haben drei Schülerinnen krankheitsshalber ihr Studium unterbrochen. Doch hoffen sie, mit Gottes Hilfe im Laufe der Zeit so weit zu erstarren, daß sie dem Unterricht wieder beiwohnen können.

Diaconisse Esther Tassinari, die bis vor kurzem in der italienisch-lutherischen Mission zu Hoboken, N. J., stand, hilft zeitweilig im Diaconissenhospital zu Beaver Dam aus. Sie hofft, daß die finanzielle Lage in der italienischen Mission es bald erlaubt, daß sie ihre reichgesegnete Arbeit daselbst wieder aufnehmen kann.

Diaconisse Gertrud Oberheu, die sich bereit erklärt hat, in der Mission in Indien zu dienen, hilft ebenfalls in Beaver Dam aus. Wir hoffen, daß der so nötige Anbau an unser Diaconissenhospital dieses Jahr ausgeführt werden kann. Ein solcher Anbau wird es auch ermöglichen, daß das Hospital staatlich akkreditiert wird.

In der Oberklasse in Fort Wayne haben wir sechs Schülerinnen. Das ist die größte Zahl, die wir seit Gründung der Gesellschaft für die Installation haben vorbereiten dürfen.

Aus Indien kommt die Nachricht, daß Diaconisse Klara Müller sich im September mit Missionar S. Lang verheiratet hat. Diaconisse Elsie Mahler schrieb uns vor Weihnachten, daß sie am 1. Januar mit Missionar G. Hattenborf fröhliche Hochzeit feiern wird. Beiden Paaren wünschen wir Gottes reichsten Segen. Wegen ihrer Ausbildung werden diese früheren Diaconissen ihren Männern auch im Missionsdienst rechte Gehilfinnen sein können. Beide haben uns mitgeteilt, daß sie ihre Sprachstudien fortsetzen werden, um sonderlich den Frauen und Mädchen Indiens das seligmachende Evangelium von Christo ans Herz legen zu können.

#### Mindekränze.

Zum Andenken an unsere selige Mitschwester J. M. Kiedel sind von verschiedenen Personen und Vereinen Mindekränze im Gesamtbetrag von siebenzig Dollars gestiftet worden. Frau Kiedel war die Gattin des in weiten Kreisen unserer Synode bekannten Architekten J. M. Kiedel. Sie hat unserer Diaconissengesellschaft wertvolle Dienste geleistet, indem sie in der St. Paulsgemeinde zu Fort Wayne fleißig Glieder geworben hat. Auch war sie seit Gründung des Diaconissen-Frauenvereins Mitglied derselben. Bei Installationsgottesdiensten war sie immer zu dienen bereit, wenn es galt, die Gäste zu bewirten. Ihr Abscheiden kam ungeahnt schnell. Am letzten Mittwoch im September hatte sie noch

der Versammlung des Diaconissen-Frauenvereins beiwohnt. Sie war heiter und guter Dinge. Als daher in der folgenden Woche ihr Abscheiden erfolgte, da kam diese Nachricht gänzlich unerwartet. Ihr aber ist wohl geschehen. Sie war wohl vorbereitet auf ihr Ende. Ihr Andenken bleibe unter uns im Segen!

Zum Andenken an Frau Ph. Köhlinger, ebenfalls Mitglied der St. Paulsgemeinde, wurden drei Mindekränze im Betrage von fünfzehn Dollars gestiftet. Die Entschlafene war Mitglied der Gesellschaft und hat das Wohl der Diaconissensache auf betedem Herzen getragen. Auch ihr Andenken bleibe unter uns im Segen!

#### Vermächtnisse.

In seinem Testament hat Herr Friedrich Wehrenberg, ebenfalls ein Mitglied der St. Paulsgemeinde zu Fort Wayne, unsere Gesellschaft mit 500 Dollars bedacht. Seine Gattin ist ihm vor kurzem in die Ewigkeit nachgefolgt. Beide waren allezeit bereit, im Interesse der Mission und der Liebestätigkeit das Opfer der Hände darzureichen. Gott segne ihr Andenken!

Das sagen wir auch zur Erinnerung an Frau Katie Hansen in Oasland, Cal. Sie hat in ihrem Testament 300 Dollars für das Werk der Diaconissengesellschaft bestimmt. Auch sie hat sich stets für unsere Arbeit interessiert und auch bei andern Interesse für unsere Sache zu erwecken versucht.

#### Noch ein Mindekränz.

Anfangs November vorigen Jahres erhielten wir einen Brief von Frä. Frieda Lohöfener, einer Krankenwärterin in Kanjas City, Mo., in welchem sie uns mitteilt, daß sie zum Andenken an ihre selige Mutter in Alma, Mo., einen Mindekränz von 100 Dollars gestiftet habe. Ihre Mutter hat jeberzeit ein reges Interesse an unserer Diaconissensache an den Tag gelegt und in ihrem Kreise eine ganze Anzahl Mitglieber für die Gesellschaft gewonnen.

Durch diese Mindekränze und Vermächtnisse wurde es unserm Kassierer ermöglicht, die laufenden Ausgaben zu decken, was andernfalls nicht hätte geschehen können, da die Beiträge im Oktober und November nicht dieselbe Höhe erreichten wie in den beiden vorausgegangenen Jahren. Wir haben darum ganz besondere Ursache, dem lieben Gott für diese Vermächtnisse und Mindekränze zu danken.

B. P o c h.

#### Interessantes aus dem Tagebuche einer Diaconissin.

„Wer noch irgendwie Zweifel hat, ob er das Diaconissenwerk unterstützen und den Diaconissenberuf loben soll“, so schrieb einst P. Theodor Fliedner, „der lese die Aufzeichnungen in dem Tagebuche unserer Schwester Emilie Heuser.“ Diese Aufzeichnungen müssen jeden überzeugen, wie durch den selbstlosen Dienst treuer Diaconissen in Hospitalern und Wohltätigkeitsanstalten der Mission die größte Hilfe geleistet wird, zumal in Heidenländern. In dem Tagebuche der Schwester Heuser, das man nach ihrem Tode im Jahre 1898 in ihrem Zimmer im Kaiserswerther Diaconissen-Mutterhaus vorfand, lesen wir unter andern folgendes:

„Mit einem Herzen, erfüllt mit Liebe zu meinem Heilande, und mit demütiger Entschlossenheit trat

ich am 4. Juni 1853 als Diakonissenschülerin in Kaiserswerth ein. Schon im nächsten Jahre wurde ich von unserm allgemein geehrten und beliebten Diakonissenvater D. Theodor Fliedner für fähig erklärt, den Diakonissenberuf zu ergreifen. Bei meinem Bruder, der eine Pfarrstelle bekleidete und dessen Haushalt ich etliche Jahre führte, hatte ich herrliche Gelegenheit, Vorstudien zu treiben. Ich wurde für den Apothekerberuf bestimmt und erhielt meine praktische Ausbildung in Mülheim an der Ruhr. In Düsseldorf bestand ich mein Apothekerexamen. Als Apothekerin mußte ich auch viel über die rechte Krankenpflege lernen. Es wurde erwartet, daß ich bei allen Operationen im Diakonissen-Krankenhaus zugegen war, und dann hatte ich auch immer die erste Nachtwache bei schwer Operierten."

Besonders viele Aufzeichnungen enthält das Tagebuch dieser treuen Diakonissin über ihre Tätigkeit in Alexandrien, Jerusalem und Syrien. Sie schreibt: „Im September 1857 wurde ich mit zwei andern Diakonissen nach Alexandrien in Nordafrika geschickt, um dort ein Hospital zu eröffnen, wozu unser seliger Diakonissenvater D. Th. Fliedner im Winter vorher die Vorbereitungen getroffen hatte. Es wurde eine feierliche Abschiedsfeier im Mutterhaus zu Kaiserswerth gehalten, und im Vertrauen auf Gottes Schutz und Segen traten wir die weite Reise an. In Alexandrien gab es zuerst viele Hindernisse zu überwinden, bis endlich im Februar 1858 die ersten Kranken aufgenommen werden konnten, denen in kurzer Zeit viele andere folgten. Wir genossen bald von allen Seiten sehr viel Liebe und Anerkennung, besonders bei dem armen arabischen Volk. Doch nahmen auch vielfach Kranke aus den höheren Ständen, meistens Mohammedaner, zu unserm Diakonissenhospital ihre Zuflucht, und wir hatten herrliche Gelegenheiten, von unserm Glauben Zeugnis abzulegen. Da Gottes Wort nie leer zurückkommt, so wissen wir, daß durch unser Hospital viel erfolgreiche Missionsarbeit getan worden ist. Auch Deutsche wurden in unserm Krankenhause gepflegt. In einem Jahre waren es ihrer zwanzig. Es läßt sich nicht beschreiben, wie dankbar die meisten dieser Kranken waren, daß sie fern von der Heimat von treuen Händen gepflegt wurden, und zwar von Leuten, die in ihrer Muttersprache mit ihnen reden konnten.

„Es dauerte nicht lange, als täglich sechzig bis siebzig Araber kamen, um den Arzt zu konsultieren, und sich Arznei verschreiben ließen, die ich zubereiten mußte. Auch besuchte ich, soweit die Zeit es zuließ, die Araber in ihrem elenden Stadtviertel, um Not und Elend zu lindern; das alles natürlich in der Absicht, um auf diese Weise das Vertrauen der Leute zu gewinnen und sie dann mit Christo bekannt zu machen. Anfangs bereitete mir das Erlernen des Arabischen etliche Schwierigkeiten; doch dauerte es nicht so sehr lange, bis ich mich verständlich machen konnte. Im Laufe der Jahre sind Tausende aus allerlei Volk, das unter dem Himmel ist, in unserm Diakonissenhospital in Alexandrien verpflegt worden, und Gott allein kennt sie, welche hier nicht nur dem Leibe nach, sondern, was unendlich wichtiger ist, auch der Seele nach genesen sind."

Wohl finden wir in dem Tagebuche dieser treuen Diakonissin auch Aufzeichnungen, die da Zeugnis ablegen von schmerzlichen innerlichen Kämpfen. Die

ersten fünf Monate in Alexandrien brachten manche Enttäuschungen. Aber in solchen Stunden der Anfechtung bewies sich Gottes Wort an ihrem Herzen als die rechte Trostesquelle. Sie berichtet von Weihnachtsfreude und Weihnachtsfrieden in dem Lande, in dem unser Heiland wohl seine ersten Schritte getan hat, in Ägypten. Sie berichtet, wie Gott immer zur rechten Stunde drohendem Mangel an Geld- und Lebensmitteln abgeholfen hat in dem Lande, wo zu Josephs Zeit durch Gottes wunderbares Walten Tausende erhalten wurden in teurer Zeit.

(Fortsetzung folgt.)

## DEACONESSSES IN JAPAN.

Miss Evelyn Ottman, a deaconess of the Episcopal Church, writes:—

"The Japanese as a nation are famous at story-telling, and there are many professional story-tellers who make a living by entertaining with their tales, both historical and fictitious. Some of the educated Japanese women who have embraced Christianity use this gift in teaching children. As the teacher tells a Bible story, the children listen spell-bound, with faces expectant and ears and eyes drinking in every detail. Such touches of local color as the foreigner never could put in make the story vivid and real. The Japanese version of the Prodigal Son parable is not, Bring out the best robe and kill the fatted calf. Fatted calves are seldom served in Japan. But to say, 'Bring out the best kimono and heat the bath,' is quite the proper thing to say and more understandable."

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