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7-1938

The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 15, No. 3

Lutheran Deaconess Association

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The Lutheran Deaconess

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

Miss Dorothy Weinhelm
R 1



Vol. 15

No. 3

JULY - - 1938

*"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it unto me." MATTHEW 25:40.*

THE DEACONESS CONSECRATION SERVICE

The consecration service for this year's class of graduates was held at Trinity Lutheran church, Fort Wayne, in the Sunday morning service, June 12. The three graduates, of whom we have a picture in this issue, are Thelma Bemarkt of St. Louis, Mo.; Martha Boss of Cleveland, Ohio, and Anita Heidmann of Webster Groves, Mo. The Rev. H. Levihn, pastor of Trinity church, had charge of the altar service and the superintendent preached the sermon and conducted the consecration ceremony. Trinity choir, under the direction of Mr. P. Luecke, helped to beautify the services by singing an appropriate anthem. The sermon was based on John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease," the text chosen by the class. The service was well attended by an appreciative congregation of worshippers. Members of the Board of Directors and of the Ladies' Deaconess Auxiliary, and the deaconesses present joined in the procession into the church. The generous offering for the deaconess cause received in this service is herewith gratefully acknowledged.

In the evening a reception was held for the newly consecrated deaconesses under the auspices of the Deaconess Auxiliary. A committee of ladies of Trinity church under the direction of Mrs. Chas. Pape served refreshments. Several vocal duets by Mrs. Homer Hibler and Mrs. Louis Stephan, readings by the Misses Dorothy Mueller and Mildred Keltch, addresses by Pastor Levihn and missionary George Schroeder of India, and songs by the deaconess choir were features of the informal program rendered for the entertainment of the guests. Sister Flora Moe, of the Norwegian Lutheran Motherhouse of Chicago, joined in wishing the graduates God's blessing. Visitors from out of the city who attended the consecration services were parents and relatives of the graduates, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Heidmann and daughter Florence of Webster Groves, Mo.; Mrs. Karl Boss and Mrs. Gahr of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Alvin Bemarkt of St. Louis, and Mrs. Martha Broderick of East Aurora, N. Y.; Miss Alvina Wallmann of Cleveland; Miss Bueder of Chicago; Sister Flora Moe of Chicago, and deaconesses Henrietta Nanke and Lydia Lutz of Addison, Ill., and Frieda Bremmermann of Chicago.



This Year's Graduates

"Father, where shall I work today?"

And my love flowed warm and free.
Then He pointed me to a tiny spot
And said, "Tend that for me."

I answered quickly, "Oh, no, not there;
Why no one would ever see,
No matter how well my work was done;
Not that little place for me!"

And the word He spoke, it was not stern;
He answered me tenderly,
"Ah, little one, search that heart of thine;
Art thou working for them, or me?
Nazareth was a little place,
And so was Galilee."

From "The Deaconess Banner."

OUR DEACONESS TRAINING SCHOOL

A new class of probationers will be admitted into our Training School in September. Four applicants have been accepted for enrollment, and several more applications have been received and will be presented to the Board in the near future. The new term will begin, God willing, September 7. The Association has published a pamphlet, giving information on deaconess work, on our Training School and course offered, requirements for enrollment, etc. A copy will gladly be sent to any one interested. Concerning prospective students the pamphlet says: "We need students who will train for this work."

We need Christian women who are in good physical health and who are willing to make sacrifices for serving the Savior in serving their fellow men. They must be Christian women, who are not seeking their own advantage, but are filled with zeal for the cause of Christ and with love to their fellow men. They must be willing to support the work of the Association by the service they render, in whatever position they may be placed, and to carry on in Christian patience and courage under difficulties that may confront them in their work. In a word, we need Christian women, who are filled with the spirit of Christ and will be governed by this spirit in their attitude to their work, towards their fellow-workers, and towards their sister-deaconesses. Especially do we need Lutheran nurses who have this spirit and who will take our course in deaconess training and prepare for service in our Association."

NEWS ITEMS

The Executive Committee of the Deaconess Conference met at Watertown, Wis., on April 23, and that gave the superintendent an opportunity to spend a few days in Wisconsin and to visit the deaconesses at Bethesda and at the Deaconess Hospital in Beaver Dam. At both places arrangements had been made for a meeting of the respective groups and we enjoyed these social gatherings and also the visits with our friends and co-workers, Dir. Pingel, Pastor Naumann, and Pastor Kirst. God willing, we shall see you again this summer at the time of the convention of the Synodical Conference. Deaconess Henrietta Thorsness and student deaconess Martha Boss accompanied the superintendent on this trip. Deaconess Thorsness is a member of the Executive Board of the Conference. On the way to Wisconsin and on the return trip we stopped at Addison, Illinois, for a visit with the deaconesses and superintendents of the Industrial School and the Orphans' Home. Thank you for the kind hospitality, Pastor Thormahlen!

Deaconess Clara Hilken of the Beaver Dam hospital joined us on the way home for the purpose of consulting Dr. Werner Duemling at Ft. Wayne and receiving treatments for an eruption on her hands, caused by solutions used in hospitals. Although her hands healed under the care of the doctor and she returned to her former position, she was forced to resign from hospital work on account of recurrence of the

same trouble. She regrets very much that she cannot continue in the work she loved so well and enjoy the companionship of those with whom she worked. God willing, she will soon be placed again in other work. We Christians know it is God who also through such experiences directs our life in the ways in which He would have us go, and assigns to us the work He would have us do.

Deaconess Ruth Nichols, whom we found sick at the time of our visit in Watertown, is slowly improving and hopes that she can resume her duties again at Bethesda before long. May God grant that her prayers and ours may be answered and that she may fully recover from her illness.

Deaconess Elizabeth Behlke resigned her position at the orphanage at Indianapolis, Indiana, June 15, and is enjoying a much needed rest with her relatives in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Deaconess Frieda Vierck is on her return from Germany, where she had gone on account of the serious illness of her father. We welcome her back and hope to have her placed shortly after her arrival.

Deaconess Talke Renken, who served for a number of years at the orphanage in Addison, Ill., was married to Mr. Lewis Simon, of Horicon, Wisconsin. The marriage was performed at La Rose, Ill., on May 7. Mr. and Mrs. Simon will make their home at Horicon. We are sorry to lose Mrs. Simon as one of our deaconesses. She has rendered faithful service. For this we thank her and wish her God's blessing for her married life.

Mr. and Mrs. Sorgatz of Bylas, Arizona, announce the birth of a daughter on May 14. Mr. Sorgatz is a teacher in the Indian Mission and Mrs. Sorgatz is our former deaconess Irma Gallmeyer. Hearty congratulations and wishes of God's blessing!

Mr. August Becker, the veteran member of our Board of Directors, has been very ill for several months. We missed Mr. and Mrs. Becker very much at this year's consecration service. They were always in attendance at former consecration services, and in every way have always been faithful and loyal supporters of our cause since the organization of our Association. We hope and pray that God may restore Mr. Becker to complete health and that we may still in the future, as in the past, have the benefit of his good counsel in guiding the affairs of our deaconess association.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

Published in January, April, July and October
at Berne, Indiana
by and in the interest of
Lutheran Deaconess Association

Printed by The Lutheran Press
153 South Jefferson Street,
Berne, Indiana

Subscription Price 25c per year

"Entered as second-class matter May 1, 1931, at the post office at Berne, Indiana, under the act of March 3, 1879."

All matters pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the Superintendent, the Rev. H. B. Kohlmeier, Lutheran Deaconess Home, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne Ind.

Please make all checks payable and send all contributions, membership dues, and Memorial Wreath donations to the Lutheran Deaconess Association, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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The superintendent was privileged to read papers before the conference of pastors and teachers of Fort Wayne and vicinity and before the conference of Institutional Missionaries, held in Fort Wayne, May 10 and 11. The essay read before this group was on "The Deaconess in Follow-up Work." We publish it in this issue.

The slide lecture was given before the Ladies' Deaconess Auxiliary, May 31. The superintendent would welcome invitations to deliver this lecture before congregations or societies. There is no expense connected with it to the group wishing to hear this lecture and seeing pictures of our deaconesses and their work. All we ask is a freewill offering for our cause. All who have heard the lecture pronounce it interesting and instructive.

THE DEACONESS IN FOLLOW-UP WORK

A paper read before the Conference of Institutional Missionaries, Fort Wayne, Indiana,
May 10-11, 1938

Your chairman has graciously asked me to read a brief paper at this conference on the topic: "The Deaconess in Follow-up Work." I appreciate this privilege and am very happy to have this opportunity to address your conference on some phase of deaconess work. I am firmly convinced that the day will come when your specific field of service will more generally than at present offer us the opportunity to give you that assistance which only a trained full-time deaconess can render. Let me assure you, that we are ready at any time to render such service and assistance. To many a one of our deaconesses it would mean an answer to her ardent prayer that she might be privileged to use her talents in just that work, in which you are engaged.

What is a deaconess? A deaconess is a trained woman church-worker, a trained woman assistant to the pastor or missionary. I say, a **trained** woman church-worker. Why some one who has received special training for this work should be employed, I wish to stress in one of the other subdivisions. Here I would like to say just a few words on what I have in mind, when I use the title "deaconess." In some localities where institutional mission work is carried on, the missionary has a group of volunteer workers, ladies who devote some time to this work, or he has some one especially engaged by the mission society to assist him in his work. And these ladies are often referred to as their deaconesses. And this custom of calling these ladies "deaconesses" can probably be defended. Yet you will understand that it somewhat beclouds the minds of our people as to the value and need of the work of the Lutheran Deaconess Association and of the deaconesses trained by us. Since we have this Association and are training deaconesses and trying to place them in the various fields of church-work, where trained women workers are needed, it would help us to have our people associate the name "deaconess" with those who have taken our course and are in the service of our Association. In this essay I shall use the name "deaconess" as applied to a woman worker, trained for assistance in church-work, making this her profession and devoting her entire time to the work assigned to her.

And now as to what we have in mind in speaking of follow-up work. In what does this follow-up work consist? It is just what the name implies. The missionary speaks to hundreds or even thousands of persons in the institutions where he serves. Many of them, who by the grace of God open their hearts to the Word of God brought to them by the missionary, remain under his care until God takes them home into heaven. Others leave the institutions. These may have accepted Christ as their Savior or they may not as yet have been fully gained for Christ. In every case, in the case of those remaining under the missionary's care and in the case of those who on account of removal from the institution are no longer reached by the personal ministrations of the missionary, there is the necessity of assisting to carry on the work begun. The missionary is an extremely busy man, if he would perform only the daily routine work that is constantly crowding in upon him. He must have help to serve these many spiritually hungry souls with the bread of life. And especially if the patients or inmates of an institution, with whom the missionary has established a contact, are discharged and return to their homes, some one must continue to instruct, advise, comfort, or strengthen and guide them on the path to heaven. The deaconess follows up these cases under the direction of the missionary, and so does very important work which would largely be neglected, on account of sheer lack of time upon the part of the missionary, if it were not for her assistance.

Where is such work necessary? I do not know your work from practical experience and so can only visualize it. I may not see all the particular fields of your work where follow-up work is necessary. But I know that you see the need of it, for instance, in connection with your work in hospitals. There you often have a patient for only a very short time. He may never have been a member of a church, or he may have drifted away from church-connection. He shows interest in the Gospel message, or you may have hopes that by patient, careful work he might be won, but before you can make much progress, he is dismissed. There is a case for follow-up work. The same is true in respect to inmates of other institutions, as Houses of Correction, Detention Homes, Sanitoria, and the like. Wherever the missionary makes a contact and cannot himself continue to seek that soul or to assist that soul to continue in

Christian faith and life, there is the field for the trained follow-up worker.

Why follow-up work? I hesitate to speak to you on this point. I realize that you know the answer better than I do. I believe that it must be a constant care that weighs upon the heart of a conscientious missionary that this part of the work does not receive the attention that it should. Must we not fear that many souls are lost who under the missionary's care had given promise of being brought into the fold of the Good Shepherd, because the advantage gained could not be followed up, when the respective person was back again in his old environments with all the dangers to his budding spiritual life? Is it not often more important to give such persons spiritual care after their discharge from the institution than while they are there? You are doing most wonderful work and it is signally blessed by God, but here, I believe, is a weak point in our set-up in many instances of our institutional mission work, that we have not adequately provided for follow-up work. No one will deny that this work is of the greatest importance.

And why a deaconess for this work? A deaconess is a woman church-worker. Why a woman worker? In many cases women are best fitted by nature for just such work. I think this is obvious. Take, for instance, follow-up work in the case of women, or fallen girls, or children. In fact for much work of this kind in our circles, where it is done at all with any attempt to do justice to it, women are employed by our missionaries. But again, why a deaconess, a trained woman church-worker? Have we not our volunteer workers? Far be it from me to disparage in any way the work done by volunteer women workers. But who will deny that the best of intentions cannot supply efficiency in the work? After all, it is important to be well equipped for any work, if it is to be done properly and with prospect of best results. And here we have to do with work of prime importance, we are working on human souls, immortal souls, souls that will either by the grace of God through the Word as we apply it, enjoy with us the blessedness of heaven or be lost eternally, souls, precious souls bought with the blood of the Savior. If there is any work of human endeavor that requires definite knowledge, correct judgment, some degree of expert skill in applying this knowledge, it is surely the work of soul-saving. Is it not odd that we seem to

overlook that so often in our church-work? Or do we probably overestimate the knowledge of Christian truths that our people generally have? A conscientious missionary will train his volunteer workers as best he can, and yet he must entrust some of this follow-up work often to workers who are by no means sufficiently indoctrinated to be teachers of others. Christian volunteer workers can always be used, but for the regular follow-up work every missionary should have at least one trained deaconess. Says Gallmann in an essay delivered some years ago before the convention of the Associated Lutheran Charities: "Just as necessary as it is for those who enter the holy ministry to study and prepare themselves for that blessed task, it is necessary for those who engage in inner mission work to prepare themselves for the arduous work before them." And then he makes a plea to interest young women in the high calling of a deaconess. Or permit me to quote a passage from an article written by one of the members of this conference: "We easily realize that it is a serious moment when the surgeon steps before the operating table and has before him a case on the skillful treatment of which a life depends or when a physician stands by the bedside to administer remedies at the crisis of a fever. But do we always realize that it is a far more serious moment when a human soul is put into our hands to receive treatment that it may escape eternal ruin and come to a life that is eternal? For such sacred and important work we need divine skill and wisdom, and great delicacy. The Lord alone can give this. Only Christ can teach how to deal with human wounds that sin has made." Our deaconesses get a thorough course in Bible study. That gives them not only the necessary Biblical background for the spirit to be brought into their service and for the work itself, but also equips them with the ability to use the tools that alone can effectively do the work required. And there are other advantages of having a trained deaconess to assist in this work. The deaconess is taught to work under the direction of the missionary, she will keep the missionary informed on those phases of the case in question that may demand his special and personal attention. The deaconess also has some knowledge of social problems involved and the Biblical viewpoint of the proper solution of such problems, and we all know, how necessary that often is in this work.—I am convinced that our mission-

aries and their Boards would soon realize the advantage of the service of a full-time, trained deaconess, if they would but give us the opportunity to prove our claims.

And finally, how should a Lutheran deaconess do follow-up work? Strictly under the direction and supervision of the missionary. The deaconess should not and would not consider herself the assistant missionary, but the missionary's assistant.

And now, dear brethren, may we hope that you will retain your interest in our deaconess cause and that the time will come when our deaconesses will be granted the opportunity to assist you in your blessed work? We offer this assistance to you in humility and sincerity.

MATERNITY WORK IN WANHSIEN, SZECHUEN, CHINA

Mrs. Clara R. Seltz (former deaconess Clara Rodenbeck) has spoken before Ladies' Aids and other groups in our congregations while at home with her husband and family on furlough. One of the topics of her address is on maternity work in China. Mrs. Seltz tells us that there is a wonderful field for mission work for our trained deaconess nurses, if the mission boards could make it possible to engage more deaconesses for work of this kind. If maternity clinics could be established by deaconess nurses and deaconesses could be employed as visiting nurses, she is certain, that many Chinese women and their families would be gained for Christ. Besides this main purpose of sending missionaries and deaconesses into heathen countries, there is a crying need here for helping these poor people with our knowledge of hygiene and the modern science of nursing. That would, in itself, be a wonderful example of neighborly love, the evidence of Christian faith. May God give us more deaconess nurses for all our fields of church-work at home and abroad!

Mrs. Seltz says: "before entering into this subject I wish to impress upon the reader that he must realize the extent of the Chinese republic, that conditions in Western China are not comparable with those in the East, nor are conditions in rural districts the same as in the cities. The following article will only deal with conditions prevalent in the city of Wanhsien, Szechuen, a city with a population of 200,000, situated on the Yangtze River, about 1200 miles from Shanghai.

The city can boast of one fairly good hospital, the Red Cross Hospital. It really is only a dispensary, although at times of war it has soldiers as resident patients. It is under the supervision of young Dr. Choi, a Korean trained in Japan. Judging from past experiences, he has had excellent training. Now what does this hospital offer in maternity cases? Nothing, for Dr. Choi, being a male, is not called by the Chinese women unless some rich man's wife is near death. The doctor has started a small training school for nurses; but not having any maternity cases, the students naturally get no practical experience in taking care of them.

Wanhsien does have its midwives. It has those women whose mothers or friends were midwives, with no knowledge of hygiene whatsoever. It has also those who have had some nurses' training, perhaps one or two years, and who now have their signs up that they are doctors. These are called frequently, for Chinese women in general are eager to have better care at their deliveries. On the other hand, they also gain face to have a 'trained' midwife.

A foreign nurse, especially an American, should she do only maternity work, would have a thriving business, for Chinese women think foreign nurses know everything and will bring good luck and health to those children whom they deliver. However, there also is danger connected with this work, for should the mother or baby die, then the midwife will be blamed, and if the midwife is Chinese, it will be safer for her to leave the city. A foreign midwife is usually not molested so easily."

Mrs. Seltz then relates a few personal experiences from which we realize some of the handicaps and difficulties under which a deaconess nurse must work on account of Chinese customs and lack of supplies and conveniences in the Chinese homes. She says: "One must take all supplies along, such as rubber and muslin sheets, cotton, disinfectants and medicines, instruments, flashlight, and old baby clothes. The Chinese family has very little. They live in their one room, with perhaps a small adjoining kitchen. Their bed of wooden boards is in a dark corner of the room. Usually they have a square table or a few boxes on which one can place supplies. They may have hot water; if not, one hesitates to ask them to heat some, for they sorely need their wood to cook the next meal. So one uses cold lysol solution and rubber

gloves. In rare cases they have electric lights, more often a small kerosene lamp and sometimes a small candle, or nothing at all. Oftentimes these rooms, with mud floors and walls, are so damp and cold that one cannot work without a coat on, and certainly the new-born infant can receive only the most essential care. Although the mother has been told to stay in bed, she usually is up on the first day, oftentimes washing her baby's clothes, for it is considered bad luck for anyone else to wash them.

The Chinese mother and baby must always be closely watched, for there are numerous children's diseases, and infant mortality is very high. The new mother usually is eager to learn the foreigner's way of taking care of children, for they think our children are so much cleaner and healthier than theirs.

It is a difficult and at times heart-breaking task to teach them only the bare fundamentals of hygiene, for they have so very little to do things with; but it is also gratifying to see their willingness and the great change that takes place in these women after being in contact with foreign methods and teachings."

Clara R. Seltz.

DEACONESS CONFERENCE

Our annual Deaconess Conference will be held, God willing, July 28 to 30, at St. Louis. A very interesting and instructive program is being prepared by the committee in charge. Papers pertaining to deaconess work and affiliated subjects will be read by deaconesses and addresses given by prominent church-people of St. Louis. The prospects are that we shall have a good attendance by deaconesses from far and near. The St. Louis Ladies' Deaconess Society will be host to the conference.

ASSOCIATED LUTHERAN CHARITIES

The convention of the Associated Lutheran Charities will be held August 30 to September 2, at Chicago. Headquarters will be at the La Salle Hotel. One of the noon-day luncheons will be under the auspices of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, and the informal program in connection with it will feature topics on deaconess work. The superintendent of the Association will also read a paper before the Ladies' Group meeting. We hope, many deaconesses will be able to attend also this convention.

DEACONESSES ACCORDING TO THEIR STATIONS

Lutheran General Hospital, Alamosa, Colorado:
Noess, Lulu M., R. N., Supt.
Hogan, Gertrude, R. N.

Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin:

Poetter, Frieda
Pfund, Mathilda
Pohlmann, Bertha
Schumann, Alma
Witte, Oneida, R. N.
Wolsky, Emma

Lutheran Hospital, Beatrice, Nebraska:

Dienst, Clara M., R. N.
Martin, Freda, R. N.

Lutheran Orphans' Home, R. 13, Kirkwood, Missouri:

Gieschen, Margaret
Neuendorf, Irene
Rixe, Leone
Storck, Florence

Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisc.:

Heck, Erna, Matron
Hecht, Minnie
Bliefnick, Marie
Moehlenbrock, Louise
Nichols, Ruth
Seckel, Christine
Hilken, Clara

Lutheran Industrial School, Addison, Ill.:

Nanke, Henrietta
Strehlow, Clara

Lutheran Orphans' Home, Addison, Ill.:

Lutz, Lydia

Lutheran Orphans' Home, 3310 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dey, Alice
Leader, Cora

Bethlehem Orphans' Home, 375 Fingerboard Road, Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island, N. Y.

Bartsch, Erna

Ev. Luth. Institute for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., E. Detroit, Mich.:

Theilmann, Martha, Matron
Bliefnick, Margaret
Klitzing, Alice, R. N.
Schmidt, Johanna

Lutheran Old Folks' Home, Belle Plaine, Minn.:

Herzberg, Martha, Matron

Lutheran Altenheim, 8721 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, Mo.

Spencer, Margaret, R. N.

Chicago Lutheran City Mission, 2309 N. Kildare, Avenue.

Bremermann, Frieda

St. Louis City Mission, 3212 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.:

Haeger, Esther

St. Matthew's Parish, 421 W. 145 St., New York, N. Y.

Buegel, Hulda, R. N.

Immanuel Parish, 122 E. 88th St., New York, N. Y.:

Eber, Martha, R. N.

Foreign Mission:

Doctor, Amelia, R. N., Lutheran Mission, Vaniyambadi, S. India.

Rathke, Louise, Bethesda Lutheran Hospital, Ambur, N. Arcot Dist., S. India.

Deaconess Helen Kluck, R. N., Nung Udoe, Uyo Post Office, Calabar Province, Nigeria, West Africa.

On Leave of Absence:

Bender, Nelle

Johnson, Alverda, Dundee, Ill.

Johnson, Mathilde, R. N., 756 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colo.

Ida Schillinger, R. N., Nunica, Mich.

Schrader, Anna, 1080 Grant St., Denver, Colo.

Stolte, Ida

Vierck, Frieda, on visit in Germany.

Behlke, Elizabeth, 405 Vine Ave., Park Ridge, Ill.

Deaconess Home, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana:

Schmidt, Martha, Office Secretary.

Thorsness, Henrietta

Laesch, Katherine, Charge of Home.

By request we publish the following:

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Evangelical Lutheran Deaconess Association within the Synodical Conference of North America, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, with office at 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana, the sum of

.....
.....

and the receipt of the Treasurer of said corporation shall be sufficient discharge to my executor for same.