



THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGREGATION of the Franciscan Sisters in Germany in 1860 is being celebrated this year and as part of the observance, the Mother General and her companion from the Motherhouse in Paderborn, Westphalia, Germany, are touring institutions in the American Province. This week they are at St. Francis Hospital. Shown comparing notes on operation of hospitals in Germany and the United States are, from the left, Sister M. Virgilia, administrator at St. Francis; Sister M. Aristide, companion of the Mother General; the Rev. Mother M. Aneka, Mother General, and the Rev. Mother M. Florina, Provincial from the Motherhouse at Wheeling, W. Va.

HOSPITAL

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The hospital building was far from being under roof and the Sisters were without a home. However, they were given assistance by the Sisters of Notre Dame, who were in charge of the parish school.

Eight more Sisters were sent to this country as the hospital was completed in 1873. Shortly after it was destroyed by fire and the hospital of St. Pius in St. Louis was opened, followed by St. Anthony.

To Cape in 1875.

The first field of labor outside of St. Louis came to the Franciscan Sisters through the influence of the Rev. Joseph Schmidt, then pastor of St. Mary's Church here in Cape Girardeau. In September, 1875, three Sisters set out for this city to begin hospital work in a two-story frame house rented for the purpose. The house held 12 beds. In 1875, Sisters of the Order took over duties at St. Mary's School. While qualified teachers, they had difficulty with the English language, but received much help from the Sisters of Loretto.

Today, the Congregation covers four provinces — Holland, France, Germany and America. There are more than 2400 Sisters serving in the Order. In America alone, there are 15 institutions including seven hospitals, schools, orphanages and homes for girls.

The Rev. Mother Aneka said this compares to 70 institutions in Germany, three of these hospitals. There is a distinctive difference in the operation of hospitals in the two countries, the ones in the United States being much more progressed than those in Germany, she added. Possibly, this is due to the fact that the

institutions in that country were all destroyed by the Falk Law and then by wars and also many of the men were drafted into service.

Shortage of Nurses.

There is a definite shortage of registered nurses in that country, as here, the Rev. Mother emphasized. Because of the educational system, it would be hard to compare salaries of hospital employees. However, a registered nurse in Germany will average a salary of \$60 per month in American money plus complete maintenance including board, laundry, meals and such. Other employees' pay will vary with their ability.

The Rev. Mother stated it would be almost impossible to compare cost of operation of the institutions in the two countries. As socialized medicine is the practice in Germany, therefore, there is no medical or hospitalization insurance. The Rev. Mother and her companion Sister will be in this country several months, probably until the latter part of September. They arrived in the United States on May 12. While at St. Francis Hospital they are guests of Sister M. Virgilia, hospital administrator, and other Sisters of the staff.