

tion which their cases demand ; and a school for the instruction of poor children.

Act 4. States a few simple requisites for admission.

Act 5. Every person admitted makes a preliminary trial for a few weeks after entering the home, and if judged apt is received as a novice. The novitiate proper is fixed at a year at least. A novice may leave whenever she pleases ; she pays nothing for board, but furnishes her own dress during her time of probation.

Act 6. When a novice is declared capable of being received as a member of the community of Sisters, she promises in the hands of the pastor of the establishment to fulfil her service in all obedience with good will and fidelity, as a true disciple of Christ.

Act 7. No sister admitted into the community is bound by any vow ; but they are all engaged for a year according to the order of the Home. The establishment, on its part, engages in return to provide them with all that concerns the necessities of life whether in health, sickness, or old age. The Deaconesses of Strasburg receive no salary.

The Episcopal Church in England, in the United States, and, more recently, in Canada, has inaugurated Religious Houses similar to the Deaconess's Institution, yet bearing upon them many marks of Romish connection, and which will assuredly not advance the cause of evangelical Christianity.

Now arises the question to what extent should woman's work in the Church, be official, systematized, consolidated ? In the early Church the deaconess was an officer, and in the Apostolical Constitutions, falsely attributed to Clement of Rome, a form of ordination for deaconesses is found by which they were set apart for the duties of their office. As officers in individual congregations, the deaconesses of the early Church occupy a position totally distinct from that of those of Kaisersworth, and of the Roman and Anglican Sisters, who, apart from congregational order and oversight, form a congregation of their own, contrary to the genius of Primitive and Reformed Christianity. As it is right that students of divinity should assemble in a College under theological professors in order to their preparation for the work of the ministry in individual congregations ; so it would doubtless be perfectly Scriptural and Presbyterian to have institutions for the training of deaconesses, but their work should be connected not with the training institution but with the various congregations of the Church to which they naturally belong, or in which their services should be required. In such an institution young women might undergo a short period of training of a special character, fitting them more thoroughly than the ordinary leadings of Providence to become the paid or unpaid servants of the Church, under the Church's Great Head, as Bible women, district visitors, &c. While we have no warrant for the ordination of women to any office in the Church, which makes the person ordained a member of a Church Court, and gives a voice in the management of its affairs, we are not thereby excluded from recognizing their services, or even from setting them apart under a definite name and rules to definite work and consulting with them as to the best means for carrying on that work in all its particulars. Official character is almost essential to efficiency in every walk of life, and something of this kind must be given to female labourers in the Lord's vineyard, if we desire to witness that efficiency which should characterize every department of the Church's work. System would naturally follow as the result of definite training, or, apart from this, of official co-operation. Mutual sympathy would sustain, and mutual counsels instruct and perfect the deaconesses, or whatever else they might be called, in their daily or weekly rounds of visitation, until a permanent and complete system of religious agency, now wanting, would make congregation and their contributing areas of population to "blossom and bud and fill the face of the world with fruit." As for consolidation we have seen that it is not Scriptural and