

Needlework

*From the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame:
A contribution to the Bavarian History of Education*
Compiled from various sources by
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Industrial education received excellent attention.(in the first school at Stadtamhof) For ten hours a week the children practiced knitting, spinning and sewing; crocheting at that time was an art in the making; nevertheless, it was also taught, besides dressmaking. A required composition, describing the industrial school of the Girls' School Course III taught by Caroline Gerhardinger, presents valuable information regarding these classes and gives ample evidence of their practicality.

1. At present seventy pupils attend the industrial school, Course III. This is an increase of more than twenty of former years.
2. The requirements include various handiworks divided into several classes which again are subdivided into grades such as: Spinning in four different forms including the preparation of the cotton and the wool.
3. Here we find students interested not only in the necessary needlework, but likewise those who seek advanced lessons which they could not get elsewhere without fees.
4. Much extra time was spent for the preparation and finishing of articles.
5. Poor girls who for various reasons were obliged to discontinue regular school work were admitted to these industrial classes where they learned to make their own clothes.

From this last statement we learn that these teachers were concerned about the welfare of poor girls who would be in good company and advantageously employed. Material for their work was furnished by a priest administrator and the finished articles of clothing were distributed among the poor, particularly children. Soup kitchens were also provided for poorer children.

Mother Theresa wrote, in a report to the Ministry of Education, that, as teacher at Stadtamhof, "she not only designed in pencil and crayon, but also worked with ink and colors," which was an asset in designing in the needlework classes. (Sister Liobgid Ziegler, *Mutter Theresia*, c. 1949, trans. by Sister Dolorita Mast p.19)