

JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE, Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, Mr. BRUDENELL CARTER, Mr. FARDON, Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK, Mr. HERBERT PAGE, Mr. HOVELL, Dr. LOVELL DRAGE, and the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's, the Middlesex, St. George's, and St. Mary's Hospitals, and other equally well-known ladies.

It has been arranged that the headquarters of the new Society shall be in direct communication by telephone with every branch of the District Messengers' Society, whose call boxes are now placed in nearly every part of London. Any householder, as our readers probably know, can have one of these call boxes placed in his house at a small cost, and is thereby enabled to ring for a messenger, a policeman, a fireman, or a cab whenever he desires such assistance. The message is received at the nearest branch office and is immediately obeyed, a small charge being made to the sender. The convenience which this system has been to the public is amply proved by its popularity and by the success of the Company. It is now proposed that call boxes shall be placed in the houses of medical men for a much reduced fee, and that a special call shall intimate the desire of the sender for a trained Nurse. On receipt of the message at the office in which the call bell rings, a form will at once be sent to the doctor, which he will fill up, stating the nature of the complaint for which the Nurse is required, the patient's name and address, and such other particulars as may be necessary. Within three minutes, the messenger will probably be back with this form at his branch office, and from thence, in whatever part of the Metropolis it is situated, the contents of the form will be immediately telephoned to the headquarters of the Registered Nurses' Society, when the Secretary will take immediate steps for the dispatch of a suitable Nurse to the patient's house. In ordinary cases, therefore, within a few minutes of the moment at which the doctor rings his call bell, a most competent Nurse will be on her way to take charge of his patient. The saving of time, of trouble, and of expense which this system offers will, doubtless, insure its speedy success.

There can be no doubt that it will meet a great want and, therefore, that the public owe a debt of gratitude, both to the Registered Nurses' Society and to the District Messengers' Company, for the inception of this scheme. We understand that the offices of the Registered Nurses' Society are at 269, Regent Street, Oxford Circus, and that the Society will commence operations immediately. And we have no hesitation in believing that both the public and the medical profession will endorse the opinion of its usefulness and value which we have expressed. To our minds, it is one more proof of the well-known fact that some of the best inventions have been the most simple.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

WE have much pleasure in announcing that the Royal British Nurses' Association will shortly move into new offices at Old Cavendish Street. Considerable interest has been felt amongst the members of the Association concerning the proposed removal of the Corporation to larger and more commodious premises, which the increasing scope and importance of its work has rendered necessary. It was arranged at first to take a suite of rooms in the house of the late Sir Morell Mackenzie, in Harley Street. With the good fortune, however, which has hitherto attended the Association, the Trustees of the Portland Estate refused their consent to the occupancy of these rooms by the Association, on the ground that although private hospitals, concert rooms and lodging houses are permitted in this thoroughfare, no other public institution—except a public-house—has hitherto been permitted to occupy premises therein. In consequence of this, the Association has now been enabled to secure much larger and more convenient, as well as more central premises. It will there possess, at a reduced cost, not only a much better suite of offices, but a large and handsome room, which it is proposed to utilise for meetings, lectures and entertainments. Other societies will be able to obtain the use of this room at a very moderate cost, and the well-known demand for such accommodation in the west of London encourages the hope that the Association may make its new offices of benefit to other Societies.

KNICKERBOCKER KNIGHTS.

The new movement for establishing a Women's Medical Staff Corps has reached the thorny question of dress, and we imagine that it will remain there. It is now understood, by statements from the promoters of the scheme, that the ladies who desire to form this corps have views that soar far above trivial details of time and place. They propose to follow—if not to lead—the army in the field, but, strangely enough, seem to consider that it will fall within their duties not only to wield weapons of war and to assist the medical department, but also to shoe horses. Above all things, however, they despise "superficiality." They are literally in deadly earnest. Their clothes, above all things, we gather, are not to be "superficial," though what they are to be, if they lack that quality, it is somewhat difficult to understand. To solve this problem, an excited meeting has recently been held. The idea of petticoats was, of course, disdained, and more than one speaker denounced such impediments—(? to running away). A divided skirt, removable in case of necessity, only found one or two timorous supporters, and the meeting seems to have been fairly unanimous that the unsuperficial garments of the corps should be knickerbockers. But—and here there came a touch, delightfully true to nature—these garments are to be adorned with stripes and braid. While we consider that the meeting would have been more consistent if it had objected to such flippant and superficial adornments, we must confess our pleasure at hearing that the knickerbockers are to be concealed by a little braid. Amusements are scarce at present, and we shall therefore hope to hear more, and frequently, concerning the future proceedings of the new order of Knickerbocker Knights.

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