



Our American Letter.

IN my last letter to you I promised to send you news later on of our Home Bureau Nurses' Club at 104, West 41st Street, New York, about which I sent you a letter which appeared in the NURSING RECORD, of the 20th January, 1894.

We started our club, as I then explained, in a very small way, and quite unhampered by any red-tapeism. We are still a small association, not numbering more than fifty, but we are growing. Some of our former members being, as Nurses, a proverbially wandering race of women, have either left the country or married, but our meetings are well attended considering the nature of our work, and the enthusiasm displayed is satisfactory.

We have concluded to call our club "The New York City Nurses' Club" as there is no other organization of the sort in this city. It was on this account that our President first thought how desirable it would be to form such an association in a city where so many nurses collect from all parts of the world. I imagine there are about 2,000 Nurses in New York, a great many of whom are trained in the New York Hospitals. These city trained Nurses outside their own Hospitals (most of which have their *alumnæ*), are independent, to a certain extent, of organization, so far as work is concerned. Those Nurses who have been trained in these Hospitals pay something like ten dollars each per year to their respective Hospitals for having their names registered for private Nursing, and doctors know that they can always get a Nurse by applying to the superintendents of the training schools.

It is specially for outside Nurses who cannot join these *alumnæ*, and perhaps know very few or no doctors at all, that a club such as ours is specially needed. However, even city Nurses who have joined our club say that they feel the need of some organization broader than their *alumnæ*.

In time we hope to see it such a large affair that it will be taken entirely out of private hands—we should like to see it an organization on a large scale. We have every reason to feel encouraged too, for besides the fact that none of our last year's members have left us without very good and sufficient reasons, we find that we are attracting notice in the most satisfactory way in all directions.

Our meetings began again in the beginning of last November; we hold these meetings on the first and third Monday in the month, and in this new year of our existence have begun the practice of taking turns each month in assuming the secretaryship for the club business. We keep a Minute Book in which we record our proceedings; we also write necessary letters, and send out notices of the meetings to come. Later on, if the club does not die a natural death, and

it scarcely looks like it at present, we shall probably feel able to afford to have a permanent secretary. In the 5th January number of the NURSING RECORD for this year (1895), I see that an account of a Nurses' Club in Philadelphia has been quoted from *The Trained Nurse of New York*. The Philadelphia club has evidently gathered most of its ideas from our President, Mrs. Kate Teachman, and is starting out on the lines on which we hope to run at some future date. That club differs from ours in wishing to keep the membership to the graduates of the Philadelphia Hospital. We prefer to be thoroughly cosmopolitan; our members come from far and wide, and with regard to "Training Schools" and countries—the greater the diversity the better are we pleased; we only demand good records in Nursing and personal character.

Our club dues are 10 dols. (about £2) per year, 5 dols. of which go to the registry, and the other 5 dols. are for the maintenance of our club. The bedrooms connected with our club, and under the same roof, are looked after by a housekeeper, whose son attends to the door and runs messages, can accommodate about fourteen members, and by agreement, the members who live in the club-house have the first chance of work offered to them. The rent of the rooms goes towards maintaining the club. We are a little in debt, but the amount is lessening as time goes on. The rooms are pretty and brightly furnished, and are kept beautifully clean by the housekeeper, who is under the superintendence of our President, whose office for "delicacies for the sick" is close by, at 15, West 42nd Street; she also attends to our Nursing business, and forwards our letters, &c. Oh! the comfort of finding one's room clean, and ready to receive one after being away Nursing. Who, amongst private Nurses who rent rooms, does not know the misery of returning to a comfortless, dusty room—tired after a long, wearying case, perhaps—and of being unable to unpack and go to bed, before she has hunted up a duster to remove the coating of dust of many weeks' date? It is the dreary, homeless, uncared-for feeling that hurts one most, I find. Besides the bright bedrooms at 104, West 41st Street, our club-room itself is very pleasant, with its supply of daily papers, magazines, Nursing periodicals, and ever growing library of books, and with its writing-desk and club note-paper for our correspondence. A friend of the club, Miss Smedley, lent us when we first started a grand piano, which has stood there ever since.

On December 5 we gave our second reception, to celebrate our club's first anniversary, and the time—from 3 to 7 p.m.—passed very pleasantly, and I think I cannot do better than quote from a "flowery" article which appeared in the *Sun*, a New York daily paper, on the following day:—

"On the evening of the club reception roses and chrysanthemums beautified the rooms, and strains of music from the violin and piano under the touch of skilled musicians rose above the talk and laughter that animated the assembly. The table from which the refreshments were dispensed was a triumph of artistic taste. The rose-pink ribbons which checked off the white damask were reflected in the shining glass candlesticks, and rivalled the delicate hot-house flowers in the centre. An enormous silver urn, the gift of a friend of the club, seemed to distil perpetual bouillon for the ever-changing guests, and one almost as large, on the further end, afforded copious

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