

the living rooms adequate? Here again the answer is in the negative. In institutions where a considerable number of nurses are congregated, a sitting-room, and a room where silence is observed, where reading and writing are possible, fulfil the minimum requirement. Sitting-rooms for the different grades of workers are also a necessity. What probationer, for instance, would feel at ease in the most comfortable armchair while her staff nurse took second best; what staff nurse would relax from official decorum in the presence of probationers? If she did, so much the worse for the discipline of the wards. The same thing applies to staff nurses and Sisters. The rest of thorough relaxation is impossible to either in each other's presence.

Yet in the Millbank Nurses' Home, not only is no writing-room provided, but there is but one common sitting-room for Sisters and staff nurses. Imagine, and it requires but a small amount of imagination, one Sister playing a lively tune on the piano, another working a sewing machine, conversation going on between two more, and a studious person, or one who wishes to write an important letter striving to keep her attention fixed on her book or her correspondence. Could there be a greater purgatory to the woman who wishes to spend her limited leisure in steady reading?

Again, where is a Sister or nurse at Millbank to receive her friends? Is she supposed to have none, or must she invariably meet them outside the hospital? The New Home would appear to fall very short of the "model," for which the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, has been already waiting for over two years, and which it is proposed other military hospitals shall follow. It is a short-sighted policy to provide a Home where the staff will not be comfortable (even the Matron, in addition to her office and waiting room, is only to be allowed a bed sitting-room), because the fact, when it becomes known, will certainly tend to deter candidates from applying for Army Nursing posts, and already the supply is not more than sufficient.

The point of view of the Army Hospitals Committee appears to be that the amount of accommodation provided at Guy's Hospital for probationers should be sufficient for the Sisters and nurses at Millbank. Most people will be of opinion that trained and certificated nurses may reasonably expect somewhat better accommodation than probationers. But what is the accommodation for the nursing staff at Guy's Hospital? The Matron has a most charming house overlooking the quadrangle. The Sisters not only have their private rooms off the wards, but a general sitting-room is provided for them in the Nurses' Home, while those of their number who have not rooms in the hospital, such as the Night Sister, Home Sister, and Surgery Sister, are provided with charming bed sitting-rooms in the Home. Separate sitting-rooms are also provided for the Head Nurses and for the probationers. There is also a

room where nurses can make tea if they require it. There is a bathroom to every ten bedrooms, and, unique, so far as we know in Nurses' Homes, a fine swimming bath, in which the water is always kept warm—a most delightful addition. There is also a small ward containing eight beds, with which are connected a head nurse's room, kitchen, and bathroom, where sick nurses can be cared for. Comparisons can scarcely be made between the Home at Millbank and that at Guy's.

But the War Office point of view is, apparently, that it is spending the Nation's money, and that the strictest economy must be observed. It must show that there is a necessity for every penny spent. But the Metropolitan Asylums Board are also spending the Nation's money, and their view is that they are carrying out the will of the Nation if their nursing staffs are comfortably, almost luxuriously, housed. If the War Office doubts this, let it inspect the nurses' quarters at the Grove Hospital, Tooting; and let it realise that the accommodation which this public body regards as necessary for its Matrons is a sitting-room, an office, a bedroom, a kitchen, a bathroom, with a maid to wait upon them.

Again, the plea of the necessity for considering public expenditure would come with more force were we not informed that a place for the accommodation of students is now being built at Millbank, who will probably remain there for some three or four months only, while the majority of the nursing staff are likely to stay for as many years. Consideration for public funds has apparently not deterred the Hospitals Committee from approving the provision of billiard-rooms, smoking-rooms, and libraries for the students. We are not saying that such provision is not justified, but we do say that, if it is made, the Committee cannot plead that they are doing their duty by the Sisters and nurses connected with the hospital, if the accommodation provided for them merely complies with the requirements laid down by the sanitary authorities as requisite.

It is scarcely probable that we have heard the last on this subject, for with the known desire of the Queen (even should expediency entail the eventual withdrawal of Her Majesty's generous offer), and with an almost unanimous Press espousing their cause, we may well hope that the Nurses' Home at Millbank, which is to be a model for all such military homes in the future, will, before it is completed, be made a thoroughly healthy and comfortable residence, and so fulfil the purpose for which it is designed as a place of rest and recreation for our Army Sisters and Nurses.

So far as we are able to ascertain, the above statement represents the present position. Our representative on calling at the Headquarters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was unable to obtain any further information on the subject.

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