

honorary title abroad for all certificated nurses), and people who are outside the nursing profession—and we feel justified in stating that in such associations the needs of the Brothers are never fully considered—Sisters and Brothers stand at present, alas, not on the same footing. . . . It is impossible for them to work well together. We felt that a new association for Brothers was needed if we wanted to see our wishes really carried through.”

Membership is open only to male nurses or “Brothers,” and no one outside the male nursing profession has a right to speak, or presumably to vote, therein. But they seem to have assured themselves of the support of some doctors, two of whom read papers in praise of the use of male nurses, especially in certain cases. It seems a fairly flourishing organisation, as started in June, it numbered in August 111 members. Great stress is laid on the desire of the Brothers not only to improve the position of male nurses, but also their education and behaviour. “Our first duty is to reform ourselves so that we may be worthy of the title of Brother and have the right to demand our proper position.” It seems, as far as a foreigner can judge, a very praiseworthy effort on the part of the Dutch male nurses to set their house in order.

Reforms at the Nurses' Hostel.

Our last week's article on the Nurses' Hostel in Francis Street has aroused widespread interest. We have received numbers of letters from the nurse shareholders and others thanking us warmly for placing their case and that of Miss Hulme before the profession and the public.

Publicity has had immediate results. The directors met last Friday, and no doubt realised that the nurses' demands must at once receive due consideration, as three hours after the unfortunate lady who has been made the scapegoat in this matter had left the Hostel on Saturday, Miss Wood called the nurses together in the sitting room and, whilst appealing to their feelings, yet owned that mistakes had been made, and announced immediate reforms. No satisfactory reason was given for the summary dismissal of Miss Hulme. It was stated that during her term of residence she had attempted to make the Hostel into a Nursing Institute instead of an hotel, which was contrary to the articles of association, but as nurses are applied for and are given cases from the Hostel, the

iniquity of this proceeding does not appear. Neither is an hotel hedged in with vexatious restrictions such as are in force in Francis Street.

Miss Wood considers the nurses' appeal to the press a great mistake. She will remain in office for the next three weeks and will then introduce the new Lady Superintendent before she leaves for abroad. We venture to suggest to this lady that she should have her contract with the Directors in writing.

Suffice it to say that a notice is now posted in the Hostel informing the residents that they are entitled to the use of the telephone in the north block for professional purposes between the hours of 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m., and that a visitors' book has been placed in the waiting room, where messages can be inscribed by callers. Other reforms no doubt will follow in due course, as the nurses are to meet the Directors in conference this week. We congratulate the nurses upon the immediate good result of their appeal to publicity. “Who would be free themselves must strike the blow.”

Dr. Washington Isaacs, who has acted as the Hon. Medical Adviser to the Nurses' Hostel, has severed his connection with the institution.

PRESENTATION.

Before leaving the Nurses' Hostel last Saturday, Sept. 29th, Miss Hulme was presented by the nurses, resident in both Blocks, with a beautiful photogravure, framed handsomely in dark oak, of Raphael's masterpiece, “The Transfiguration.”

A small brass plate at the foot of the picture bore the words: “Presented to Miss Hulme by the Nurses of the Hostel as a small tribute of affection and esteem.”

Miss Hulme, with obvious emotion, thanked the nurses for the beautiful gift, which she said she would greatly value.

“This will serve,” writes one of the donors, “as an additional proof that Miss Hulme, in the short time she was at the Hostel, had won the hearts of the nurses and made herself very popular.”

We learn that Miss Hulme's case is now in the hands of her solicitor, and we hope the Nurse Shareholders will insist upon an ample apology being offered to her by their Board of Directors, for the professional damage which she has suffered so unjustly.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)