

now have her office, near the main front entrance of the hospital. In the other direction beyond the Nurses' Diet Kitchen, and connecting the new part of the Nurses' Home with the main building in Chandos Street, is a lounge, which will doubtless be much used and appreciated.

The nurses at Charing Cross Hospital are exceptionally fortunate in their chapel, as they deserve to be, for it is furnished with money they have themselves given and collected, and they take a pride in keeping it in order. The altar piece was painted by a member of the nursing staff killed, when bicycling, in a collision with a motor, and, with the beautiful Arundel prints and other pictures, gives a devotional atmosphere to the chapel.

Beyond again, a mortuary chapel has now been added. Nowhere in London have we seen one at once so simple and so dignified. The beautiful marble altar is plain to severity, yet nothing could be more appropriate. Here, in the presence of the emblem of the Christian faith, and surrounded by all the care which sympathetic hands can bestow, bereaved relatives see their dead, the body being placed on a bier in the mortuary beyond and wheeled into the chapel.

Nurses from other schools may be glad to know that invaluable housekeeping experience can be obtained as a pupil housekeeper at Charing Cross Hospital. The course lasts for four months, that is to say for 17 weeks, for which the pupil pays 10s. a week—*i.e.*, £8 10s.

We are glad to know that Mr. Verity believes in paying the workers an adequate salary, and there has been a general rise all round for those who have given evidence of good work. The Sisters will now commence at £35 per annum, rising to £50, and the staff nurses and other officers have also had a proportionate rise.

The Chairman also is an advocate of enlisting the help of the heads of various departments in the administration, and it is interesting to know that one of several General Purposes Committees has been formed of the Sisters, with Miss Heather Bigg as Chairman, which meets monthly, and has before it an account of the different items of expenditure for the past month. This, we learn, has a most wholesome effect, and each Sister is keen that while there is no stint in the ward, there is also no waste. As a means to this end check meters have been installed in the ward kitchens, so that any unusual use of gas can be noted and checked.

By the members of the above Committee comparing the average expenditure of their

wards on the different items in use, any tendency to extravagance can be noted and rectified.

NURSES AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

Miss Driellkje Buma, a Queen's Nurse, working in connection with the Q.V.J.I. Home, Glossop Road, Sheffield, on Friday in last week succeeded in establishing her claim to compensation, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, before his Honour, Judge Benson, in the Sheffield County Court. The Society involved was the Law Accident Insurance Society Ltd., which denied liability as the accident did not arise out of, and in the course of the nurse's employment. The case for the nurse was that she was alighting from a tram car when she was suddenly run into and knocked down by a motor car. The object of the action was to secure from the Court a declaration of liability under the Act.

His Honour Judge Benson decided in favour of the applicant, and made a declaration of liability with costs.

It appears to be the law that district nurses are entitled to compensation in case of accident or injury in the streets, as they are usually on their way to or from a case, but the Act has been drawn without the slightest consideration for many other classes of nurses. Thus private nurses can only claim compensation for an accident when in attendance on a patient in the sick room, and if injured in the streets cannot claim a penny although they may be taking a walk necessary to keep them in a fit state of health for their work. It is high time that hospital and private nurses held a meeting to discuss their position under this Act.

THE WORLD GRIEVES WITH ITALY.

Widespread grief is felt throughout the world for Italy, quietly preserving her neutrality, yet stricken again through the horrors of earthquake, 30,000 people have met sudden and terrible deaths, 50,000 more are roofless, and the injured are untold. The good Queen Elena has sent a special train from Rome to Avezzano, loaded with food, clothes and medicines. The wounded are many. The Anglo-American Nursing Home in Rome has been placed completely at the disposal of the authorities and has been re-opened expressly to receive the wounded. The British Catholic Hospital has also taken a large number of refugees and a majority of the wounded, the Italian hospitals being absolutely congested.

We feel sure the English and Italian nurses under Miss Dorothy Snell will be giving invaluable help to the stricken people. No one who has not been in an earthquake can ever realise its appalling horror.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)