

Metropolitan Trained Nurses' Club of the City of New York. It is a most valuable organisation, and we are pleased to see what admirable views are held by American Nurses on the value of co-operation and self-help.

The objects of this Club are the organisation of Trained Nurses for the advancement of their profession, and for social intercourse; to provide a house or houses containing sleeping apartments, and the opportunities and conveniences of a home for the members; to help physicians and the public, in the city and its surroundings, to obtain competent, reliable Nurses at the shortest possible notice.

Miss Terry says:—

"I must apologise for having left you so long without news of the Metropolitan Trained Nurses' Club of the City of New York, which has its quarters at 104, West 41st Street. My excuse is a long continued stress of work. I am sending you an *Illustrated American*, dated 11th January, which gives two pictures of our Club, and an article concerning our president, Mrs. Willard, who was the originator and organiser of our Club. We held our annual reception on the 11th of December, and our rooms were packed with guests as usual, and the members were dressed in uniform to receive their guests. Our Club curtains and draperies are blue and white, and are very pretty.

This winter we hold our meetings on the first Monday in every month; a good attendance, and the animated yet friendly discussions that take place each time, give strong evidence of the enthusiasm and interest felt by the members. The fact that the Club members are very much in demand, and constantly occupied, are the surest proofs of its success; it is becoming very generally and widely known, and applications for membership are constantly coming in; several would-be members are now working out their one year in New York, which has to be accomplished before they are eligible for membership—this is now one of the rules of the Club.

We continue our 'socials,' but have them once a month instead of every two weeks. The chairman of the house committee and the chairman of the entertainment committee arrange for these socials, and send out invitations to the members to come and to bring their friends. At these socials we have music and cards, or games, and some light refreshment is provided.

I can say with a feeling of the greatest satisfaction and pleasure, that the hopes and expectations of success that the president and I have entertained from the very beginning of our Club have been fully realised. I feel that a great part of our success is owing to the executive ability and steady enthusiasm of Mrs. Willard. All those who have studied the subject, or held control over a large body of women, know the difficulties invariably to be met.

A large heart, a broad mind, a level head, combined with a liberal supply of justice, and freedom from favouritism, are needed to keep matters running smoothly.

There has been remarkably little friction since the

beginning of the Club, and the members have all taken hold with a feeling of goodwill and fellowship, striving towards organisation, which is already assured."

Mrs. Willard has purposely made the exacting conditions of membership as difficult as possible, for her ambition is to have the Club contain only the very best of the profession. As she expresses it—she only wants "the 400" of the trained Nurses in her Club. In other words, she wants the fact that the Nurse comes from the Metropolitan Club to be a guarantee she is as near perfection in training and character as it is possible to expect. The enthusiasm shown by the Nurses for the Club, and the interest evinced by the doctors, promises that Mrs. Willard's further ambition of having a Club-house to accommodate several hundred Nurses, and with the rooms constantly in demand, will shortly be realised.

Mrs. Willard has established a sick cookery kitchen, and supplies the most delicious and dainty dishes of broths and jellies and every variety of invalid diet; and in connection with the Home Bureau, she is continually adding new branches to the business for the benefit and comfort of the sick. The Home Bureau in fact is an admirable institution, and in due course it should prove one of the most successful organisations in the Nursing world of the United States. *En passant*, we have just received the last Annual Report of the Nurses' Co-operation, and propose to comment upon it next week. Its rapid success is a triumph for the principle of co-operation amongst women, and reflects the greatest credit upon its Superintendent, Miss Hicks.

At the Johannesburg Hospital the authorities have assigned separate duties and departments to the Nurses who have lately come out from England, and the Roman Catholic Sisters previously there at work, the whole of the Kaffir wards being assigned to the Sisters, and the English patients to the English Nurses. The work has been recently very heavy owing to the large number of typhoid cases, and this, combined with other causes, induced the authorities to admit sixty cases in excess of the normal number, which has produced heavy work and such constant strain that the Nurses have complained. The Nursing work during the past few weeks, with the victims of the dynamite explosion and the epidemic of typhoid and dysentery, has certainly been very hard on the Nurses, and it is hoped that fresh ones will be engaged so that the tired Nurses may get a well-earned rest and holiday. One of the difficulties in the way of enlarging the staff is in the limited accommodation of the Nursing quarters.

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