

exceptions are made, so that graduates of small hospitals are never admitted. On the membership roll are the names of nurses, graduates of hospitals, under the prescribed number of beds. They were some of the charter members, and helped to draw up the Constitution.

To be eligible to membership of the Club a new graduate must have had six months' private duty, and an old graduate a post-graduate course before making application. A nurse must also be a woman of refinement and education. She may be able to fill all other requirements, but without these essential qualities she is debarred from membership.

The Club's management is so select and conservative that it is most difficult to gain admission to it, and applications are constantly being refused. It has become the highest standard in this country of a nurse's ability. There are now a hundred members representing nearly all the large hospitals in our city, throughout our country, and Europe. Physicians and families are anxious to secure the services of our members, and for this are willing to pay the highest salary a nurse can command.

The mistake made by your special correspondent with regard to the ten or twelve dollars a week nurses being admitted as members of our Club, has probably arisen from the fact that at the Home Bureau, which is the office of our Club, is a registry, where women who have had some experience in nursing, but not a regular hospital training, can enter their names and procure engagements for taking care of invalids, who cannot afford, and perhaps do not actually require the services of a trained nurse. There is also a list kept of candidates for our Club, graduates of large training schools, who are waiting, and who are quite willing to wait, to be admitted when they have established their residence.

The Club is working for organisation, to bring together in one large body, for mutual advancement and help, representative nurses from all the noted training schools. An exchange of ideas and thoughts gained by the respective hospitals in which they have been trained is most helpful to each member in her work. The feeling of sisterhood that has sprung up among us has already made us know the value of club life and its work. Owing to the constantly increasing membership the Club had so outgrown its original quarters at No. 104, West 41st Street, that on May 1st the adjoining house was rented, and doors were cut through, so that now it can accommodate thirty resident members.

The Club house is so home-like, with its white beds, blue couches, dimity curtains, and exquisite cleanliness, that the members love to meet and stay there. Our Club has accomplished much during the three years of its existence, every individual member working hard for the good of the whole, with the one object in view of having what has long been looked forward to by nurses—a central organisation for work, protection, and recreation.

The Trained Nurses' United Aid Society of America has grown out of the Club work, having started as a Club Fund for members only.

By this mail I am sending you one of our Club books, which will give you a fuller idea of the work of the Club than I have been able to do in this short space. The Club is an active member of the New

York Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies of the State of New York.

I cannot close without adding that it seems to me that your special correspondent writes in rather slighting terms of our President, Mrs. Willard, as being of the "laity," and not a trained nurse. We, as a Club, are entirely satisfied with her management of our affairs, and we are too large a body of women to all be affected by mere sentiment. Our increasing numbers, and our growing popularity with the doctors and public, are proof sufficient that our work is carried on in the best possible way, and as well as if conducted by a trained nurse. Her enthusiasm and devotion to our interests as nurses are never ceasing, and she is also a woman without moods and petty grievances. Every individual member of our Club can go to her with her business or private interests, and is always sure of a ready sympathy and help.

Very truly yours,

THEO. E. TERRY, M.R.B.N.A.

Vice-President of the Metropolitan Trained Nurses' Club of New York.

[We have pleasure in publishing this letter. We must point out, however, that our "Special Correspondent" in no way writes in "slighting terms" of Mrs. Willard. Describing that lady as being "of the laity," was evidently merely a statement of fact, the accuracy of which Miss Terry acknowledges. That professional affairs are best managed by professional persons is beyond dispute. It is quite easy to see how the mistake concerning the partially-trained nurses has arisen, as they register at the office of the Club. Our correspondent, believing that they were members of the Club, was careful to say, "If any criticism is made it should be directed against the schools which send out the untrained, or partially trained nurse, not against her personally, nor against the Samaritan who cares for her."—ED.]

THE HOUSEMAID'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—As one who received her training at the Middlesex Hospital I should like to say a few words with regard to your editorial article of last week's issue. You may not perhaps agree with me, but I am sure you will be generous enough to print this letter.

Miss Thorold is one of the most perfect women I know—she is a clever woman, a good woman, and a gentlewoman (and when you have said that you have said everything), and were it not for her system of working the Hospital very many of us would be debarred from becoming nurses, *i.e.*, those who have been in service, and those who physically are incapable of going through the scrubbing period, which other hospitals deem to be necessary for the production of a nurse.

But you are quite under a misapprehension if you think that the medical staff (visiting or otherwise) are unaccustomed to "lady nurses," for I do not believe that in any London hospital are the nurses treated with so much courtesy and consideration by the doctors as they are in the Middlesex Hospital. Miss Thorold herself is so charming that nobody could breathe the same air and be anything but nice and considerate in her presence.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)