

curious apathy on the part of the trained nurses to take care of their own affairs, and had we time I could cite several instances in which outsiders are taking the lead and making a profit and sometimes their living out of trained nurses while the nurses themselves seem content to forget the best interests of the profession, and to follow these self-seeking leaders like sheep. For many the temptation to choose the easier path will be hard to resist, for present remuneration is much more tangible and attractive than a possible future standard. During the war the trained nurse has suffered. She has been called to account not only for her own faults but the shortcomings of incompetent amateurs have also been reckoned against her. Can any graduate think it right to help to perpetuate such a reproach by enlisting into any body that lacks a proper organization, and a proper standard? Is the mess of pottage worth sacrificing our birthright for? Can we dare to run the risk of making the name of trained nurses more of a reproach than it has been? Remember "a motive that gives a sublime rhythm to a woman's life and exalts habit into partnership with the world's highest needs is not to be had how and where she wills; to know that high initiation she must often tread where it is hard to tread, and feel the chill air, and watch through darkness." We need never be afraid that our standard will ever become too exalted for even with our best efforts there will always be those among us who wear the cap and gown who will bring dishonour upon it sufficient to strike a balance and keep us lowly minded enough. But how great the dishonour for all of us if we do not try to maintain a good practical average at least!

During the past quarter of a century we have unconsciously and independently helped to do much, let us now, realizing our strength, resolve to do more; let us, by being more closely united as a body, become a more powerful factor for good. While working as individuals in other organizations, for their many and varied objects, let us be bound by one common tie to this, our profession; and no matter how great may be the temptations to divert our strength from its legitimate field, let us hold steadfast and thus win confidence and respect which must be jealously guarded and steadily increased by the faithful loyalty and personal interest of every woman within the ranks, each and all, content to put into our work only the highest and best we have to give. Remember we are the history makers of trained nurses. Let us see to it that we work so as to leave a fair record as the inheritance of those who come after us, one which may be to them an inspiration to even better efforts, instead of a regret or a reproach.

## Nursing Echoes.

*All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



MANY private nurses will be interested to know that Miss Edith C. Debenham, who has of late maintained rooms for nurses at St. Andrew's Chambers, Wells Street, is moving, in three or four months' time, to much larger and more convenient premises in Mortimer Street. The building is now in process of erection, and has been specially designed as a nurses' hotel and club. We learn that in this building the suggestions made by a correspondent in the NURSING RECORD have been adopted, and there is to be a large common dining-room, in which the residents can take their meals at small tables. Also there will be a limited number of unfurnished rooms, at a rent of not less than £22 a year. This sum will include lighting, attendance, cleaning, and the use of public rooms. These public rooms will be sufficiently spacious to admit of their being used by non-residents, and it is proposed to start a Club to which a certain number of ladies other than nurses may belong.

THE above charges appear to be very moderate, for rent and taxes at the West End are a very heavy item, and although nurses who have become accustomed to being provided with comfortable quarters and attendance in public institutions, and who do not realize the cost of living in London, are sometimes inclined to think when they pay for it themselves that the charges are unnecessarily high, yet those who are acquainted with the many expenses incidental to keeping up a house of this description will know that it cannot provide comfort and efficient attendance at a low rate. If, therefore, the charges are somewhat higher than those at other institutions, yet if the nurses are really made comfortable, and are not subjected to vexatious and needless restrictions, we believe that there are many who will be only too glad to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by this new hotel. The feature of a Club in connection with the scheme is, we think, a good one, as it is no doubt very desirable that nurses should come in contact with women of other interests.

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