

The Hospital World.

HOME HOSPITAL FEES IN AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In "Nursing Echoes" (Sept. 20), you speak of middle-class people being obliged to go into general hospitals, forced thither by the exorbitant fees of the private nursing homes. There should be no necessity for this in England, where nurses' salaries, servants' wages, furniture, nursing appliances, &c., are so much cheaper than in Australia. I have a private hospital in Melbourne—a beautiful house capable of providing accommodation for twenty patients, and fitted with an operating theatre replete with every convenience and modern surgical requirement. The water is all filtered and sterilised

£15. This, surely, middle-class people can afford, and if it can be done here, why not in London? If a patient wants a special nurse and private room for the whole time, the cost will be about £33; but this is luxury, not necessity. Our surgeon, if they cannot get a bed in the hospitals to which they are attached, frequently asks the patients if they can pay private hospital fees, and they come to me rather than wait for a bed, which really should only be for the benefit of the destitute. We do not accept private hospitals as training-schools in Victoria, otherwise I think the fees might be still lower.

The Board of Health restrictions are very severe, and all private hospitals containing over twelve beds come under the same regulations as public institutions, so you see we do not have it all our own way in this so-called land of Freedom.



ST. IVES PRIVATE HOSPITAL, EAST MELBOURNE.

and served from basins with pedal action. There is a large steriliser for the instruments and a dry steriliser for the dressings, doctors' aprons, towels, &c., electric light, and the very best American glass and iron operating-table.

I employ only certificated nurses, and my patients pay £5 5s. per week for a private room, and £3 3s. per week for a room shared with one or two others. There is an extra charge of £1 1s. for the week of operation, and, of course, chemist's account and stimulants are not included. A major operation can be nursed with a special nurse for the first two or three days, and a private room for the first week, and the cost for the whole month is about

I am sending you a photograph of my house that you may see small fees do not necessarily mean poor surroundings.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours truly,

E. GLOVER.

[We feel sure the above letter will be appreciated by many nurses who are interested in the organisation of private nursing homes in Great Britain. The value of the information which Miss Glover has kindly sent would be still further increased if the sums paid for rent and taxes, which are such a heavy item in the West End of London, were detailed, so that we might make an accurate comparison.—Ed.]

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