

good business ability, thoroughly interested in the work of professional women. Both proprietor and members are free agents; the former makes such rules and regulations as are necessary, and the latter, who avail themselves of its use, are quite free to come and go as they please. We have seen no institution at home or abroad which comes so near to our ideas of perfection as a home for ladies of limited means as St. Andrew's House. Why should not residential clubs on this basis be started in all populous nursing centres—not in conjunction with professional associations, but as sound commercial speculations?

To be compelled to support an institution, and to live at it when off duty, we can imagine might be very irksome to certain temperaments, and the remuneration of British nurses is nowhere equal to great personal expenditure. The Howard de Walden Home, in connection with the Nurses' Co-operation, possessed, as it is, of a freehold and part endowment, should prove an immense boon to such of the members of the Society as prefer to live in community. It would be interesting if those who have experience of its working would give Victorian nurses the benefit of their experience. We shall have pleasure in publishing any communication on the question.

American Nursing News.

The Annual Convention of the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses will take place in Pittsburg in October. The Council will meet on Tuesday, October 6th, and the meetings of the Convention will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Miss Lucy L. Drown, of the City Hospital, Boston, has been appointed the first Chairman of a unique gathering of the superintendents of training-schools for nurses, in Boston and the vicinity. The chief feature of this gathering is its informality. The only formal business transacted is the nomination of a chairman, who makes all arrangements for the meetings which are convened at her discretion. There are no stated times for them, no officers, and no dues. Expenses are defrayed by the meeting, those present assessing themselves as may be necessary when the chairman presents the bill. The meetings are called "shop talks" and the talks are discussions on timely and interesting subjects.

We are always glad to hear of Matrons and superintendents of nursing meeting to take counsel together, as such meetings cannot but be productive of good. They not only stimulate professional fellowship and *esprit de corps*, but engender much good feeling and mutual respect. When we know and trust one another, then we can work together in the most effective manner. There are now four fully-formed Matrons' Councils—the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Dutch Matrons' Council, the Matrons' Council of New South Wales, and last, but not least, the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses.

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.*



Nursing is one of the subjects to be taught under the Technical Education Committee of the Middlesex County Council, whose first session commences on the 28th inst. We hope it will be taught by trained nurses.

An attempt at suicide was made recently by a patient in St. Mary's Hospital. The man was admitted to the institution a short time ago to undergo an operation. He had been in a weak state of health since, and very low-spirited. While in bed in one of the wards about six o'clock the man, when the nurse's back was turned, got possession of a table-knife kept in a locker by his bedside, and, throwing the blankets over his head, made an attempt to cut his throat. The nurse discovered him in the act, and forcibly wrested the knife from his grasp. He is reported to be in a rather serious condition.

The promptness with which the nurse acted in connection with this sad case is much to be commended. The incident points the moral of a lesson which should not be overlooked in ward organisation, namely, that dinner-knives should never be kept in ward lockers, but always in the kitchen.

Much sympathy is felt in nursing circles with Miss Sibyl Airy, the Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, in an accident she has recently sustained, and many wishes are expressed for her speedy recovery. Miss Airy has had a long and varied nursing career. She entered the Nightingale Home of St. Thomas's Hospital for training in 1871, and held the position of Sister in that institution for seven years. She was then appointed Matron of the York County Hospital, and afterwards served as an Army Sister in Cyprus and Egypt for five years, and was awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1883. In 1888 she was appointed Sister at Charing Cross Hospital, and has held her present position, as Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, since 1889.

Nurse Bennett, who recently resigned a post under the Macclesfield Guardians after twenty-two years spent in the service of the Board, retires upon a superannuation allowance at the age of sixty-three years. The Clerk stated to the Board that during

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