

of typewritten letters, in large ones that would not only be inaccurate, but more expensive than a systematically arranged, and proof-read printed journal.

The journal not only forms a bond of union, but it affords an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and expression of thought. It keeps us in touch with the progress of the individual nurse, the alumnae association, and our Alma Mater. It creates that feeling of good-fellowship, and that oneness of purpose which makes us a united power for good. To a nurse away from her fellow-graduates it is like a letter from home.

While our interest is deep in our own local alumnae journals, it ought to be much deeper in our *American Journal of Nursing*. In its pages we can travel with Miss Dock through foreign lands, with others through our own country, and learn of the progress of nursing. We learn to know and appreciate the stars of our profession; we are either spurred on to better efforts or learn to value the advancement made in our own fields. It is that kind of social metabolism that makes us progressive.

Through the generous contributions of money received by the San Francisco County Nurses' Association from nurses and nursing organisations throughout the United States for the relief of San Francisco nurses who suffered losses in the late earthquake and fire, a home and central directory has been established. This home or club house consists of two flats made into one house by a door having been cut between. All told there are seventeen rooms, which are light and sunny, having a southern and western exposure. A large club-room on the ground-floor is being tastefully fitted up, and here are to be found all the leading periodicals on nursing, as well as other literature to make the room inviting.

An Alarming Accident.

We are glad to learn that Miss Caroline Swain who holds the position of Suffolk County Council Inspector under the Midwives' Act, who was seriously injured while cycling through being knocked down by a motor cycle, and was for some days in a critical condition, is now progressing favourably. Miss Swain, who is a sister of the Matron of the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn, gave evidence a short time ago, in connection with certain cases, before the Central Midwives' Board, when those present could not fail to be struck by the careful and lucid way in which her evidence was tendered.

Hospital World.

THE KINGSTON INFIRMARY.

A workhouse infirmary—the words convey to many minds the last note in the descending scale of dreariness and desolation, and so in very truth at one time these institutions were rightly classed, but visit many of them now and you will thank God that the misery, the suffering, and desolation, the extravagance of administration are things of the past, that the work of courageous men and women has borne abundant fruit, with the result that a visit to a workhouse infirmary will convince you that it is a haven of refuge for the sick and infirm members of the classes who have lived close to the poverty line in their working days, and, who when sickness and old age come, are forced to seek its shelter.

Go round the wards of the Kingston Union Infirmary for instance with the Matron, Miss J. A. Smith, see the faces of the old people brighten as she passes through the wards, and hear the little children gurgle and coo with delight as she finds just a moment to play with one and another and you will realise a little what it means to an infirmary to have such a Matron. She is many sided it is true. The dainty cleanliness of the cheerful wards testifies to the unceasing vigilance of the able administrator, supported by an Assistant Matron and Sisters who share her ideals. The alert nurses and probationers bear witness to the efficiency of the training school which has been organised since she came into office, the speckless kitchens and the great laundry afford evidence of the many departments to be supervised, and the many threads which are held by the hands of the Matron, the ultimate object of all these departments being the welfare of the patients.

The infirmary, which has about 400 beds, has a staff of twelve Sisters and thirty-six nurses and probationers. There is a lady dispenser, and the orderliness of her department bears witness to the deft handedness of women in this branch of work. The operating theatre is fitted up with the latest appliances, and in another room one saw the X-rays being applied to the face of a child suffering from lupus, under the supervision of the medical officer, Dr. Donald. A noteworthy feature of the Infirmary is its wide balconies, where patients can sit in the day, and sleep if thought advisable at night. Surrounding the building is a spacious and well kept garden, at the present time bright with flowers.

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