

## The Nurses' Hostel.

As we anticipated, no satisfactory reply has been sent by the Directors of the Nurses' Hostel to Miss Hulme's solicitor who demanded an ample apology for the professional damage suffered by this lady, but as we go to press, the ninth annual meeting of the shareholders is being held, so that it is to be hoped they will insist upon justice being done.

We have before us a copy of the ninth annual Report, and most disingenuously the shareholders are kept entirely in the dark on this burning question. No mention is made whatever of the fact that a new Superintendent has been appointed and discharged. But the most misleading paragraph records that "On October 20th next Miss C. J. Wood will cease to reside at the Hostel as Superintendent." Miss C. J. Wood ceased to be Superintendent on the 1st of last July, and only again seized office on September 22nd by depriving her successor of her keys of office and degrading her from her rank and duties in the Hostel a week before they legally expired. Thus the Report can only be characterised as a thoroughly dishonest document.

Although the Directors have refused to give Miss Hulme a sufficient reason for her summary discharge, base insinuations are being set afloat which make it imperative for her to protect her honourable name, and we hope that if no apology is received after the shareholders' meeting that she will call a public meeting of nurses and the Press, and lay her case before them. We cannot afford to emulate the Dreyfus scandal in the nursing world.

In the meantime, many arrangements distasteful to the visitors at the Hostel are being speedily swept away—the dinner-hour has been altered, Saturday night restrictions as to leave withdrawn, so that with the concessions already made the "reformatory" element in the management will soon cease to exist. No longer will a nurse, on going out to a case, be justified in popping her head round the sitting-room door, and saying "Good-bye, Worms!"

We hear that doctors who have previously applied to the Hostel for nurses, and had them, are now being informed that the Hostel is not a nursing institute, and cases are not being given directly to resident nurses. A decrease of 232 visitors at the Hostel during the past year will no doubt be speedily increased if this new arrangement is enforced.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The report by the House Governor and Medical Superintendent for the year ending the 31st of March last, of the Osborne House Convalescent Home has just been issued. The accommodation provided is for 43 officers and 5 ladies. During the year 249 officers and 51 ladies were admitted, giving an average daily number of 34.77 officers and 4.4 ladies in occupation. Of the 249 admissions 29 belonged to the Royal Navy and Marine, nine to the West African and Nigerian Forces, and 55 to the Indian Army, while 156 belonged to the Home Army, most of whom were serving in and invalided from India. After giving details as to medical work, sanitation, personnel, equipment and supplies, and transport, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Kilkelly says: "Officers whose health has been impaired in rendering service to their country have expressed their gratitude for the great benefits derived during their sojourn at Osborne and their high appreciation of his Majesty's noble gift in numerous letters of thanks which are continually being received."

From the time of the establishment of the Infants' Hospital in Hampstead in 1903 it has been the intention of the committee to remove to more commodious premises in a more central situation. In the early part of the present year inquiries were instituted with a view to finding suitable premises, which have resulted in the acquisition of a site in Vincent Square, at the corner of Alfred Street. The whole cost of the site, together with the building and equipment of the hospital, is being defrayed by Dr. Ludwig Mond and his son Mr. Robert Mond.

The new hospital will comprise accommodation for some fifty or more infants, together with adequate accommodation for the nursing staff, pathological laboratories, lecture theatre, and such like, and the arrangements include a roof garden, while the wards have been designed so as to obtain for the infants a plentitude of fresh air and sunlight, without excessive heat or glare in the summer. Special stress has been laid by the donors on the importance of the institution being used, not only for the saving of infant life, but as a centre for the scientific study of the various problems connected therewith, and for the prosecution of scientific research. The hospital will continue at the present address, Denning Road, Hampstead, until the new buildings are ready.

We wonder if it is any consolation to those unfortunate persons who borrowed money from the usurer Sam Lewis, that much of the £2,500,000 which he left to his wife is to benefit (now that the poor lady is dead) our charitable institutions? We doubt it.

But the windfall has naturally caused great glee to many hard-worked hospital secretaries. Amongst the charities which benefit is King Edward's Hospital

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)