

tion of that period, the policy would be assignable to the nurse. As the salary of a Queen's Nurse is from £30 to £35 a year, even a monthly premium of 5s. is a heavy drain on her resources, amounting to nearly one-tenth of her income. Queen's Nurses are a most valuable and hard working section of the community, and it is right that the Institute should help to make some provision for their old age.

Miss Florence Smedley, who for eleven years held the position of Matron of St. George's Hospital, S.W., and recently resigned after a year's ill-health, has been granted by the Governors an honorarium of seventy guineas for three years.

Miss McCall Anderson, who was recently appointed Matron of St. George's Hospital, will not take up her duties there until February next.

Women so seldom are credited with the ideas which they conceive that we are glad the name of Miss Ethel McCaul, who started the Union Jack Club, and later proposed the formation of an Army and Navy Male Nurses' Co-operation, is being intimately connected with these undertakings. The suggestion for the foundation of the Co-operation is being warmly received, and the fact that the Queen has consented to become patroness will undoubtedly stimulate the movement. The object is to give employment to the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps and of the Sick Berth Staff of the Royal Navy, who hitherto, after leaving the Services, have been unable to procure work as nurses in civil life. In this connection it must be remembered, however, that until recently the men who were employed in the Services did not receive a training qualifying them to rank as nurses in civil life. We have no doubt that the well trained nurses of the Co-operation will find plenty of employment.

The efforts of Mr. Wynn at a recent meeting of the Ecclesall Board of Guardians to obtain for the probationer nurses the same time for meals as the other officers attached to the establishment, and a half-day once a week from 2 to 10 p.m., must meet with general approval, and we regret that this proposal was not passed by a majority of the Guardians. Mr. Blossom, who supported the proposition, said the returns they had received showed that, while they had one of the best staffed hospitals, the nurses worked the longest hours. There are 9.2 patients to each nurse, and the nurses work 13½ hours a day. At Birmingham

Infirmaries, with 9.7 patients per nurse, they work 70 hours a week; at Leicester, with 8.3 patients per nurse, 65 hours per week. As the staff is divided into day and night nurses, the number of nurses to patients must, of course, be considerably more than that noted.

We wonder what men would consent to work 13½ hours a day. It must be remembered also that men as a rule only work for a half day on Saturday, and have the whole of Sunday free, while nurses are on duty seven days, or nights, a week. The Local Government Board might well turn its attention to the hours on duty of nurses in some workhouse infirmaries, and issue regulations on the matter to Boards of Guardians.

The Lady Superintendent of St. Faith's Nursing Home, Ealing, is anxious to obtain assistance for a lady who worked as a Maternity Nurse and Masseuse until failing health prevented. Early in the present year she was found to be suffering from malignant disease as well as heart disease. An operation was performed for the former trouble, but she has now, it is believed, only a short time to live. Her small means are at present exhausted, and she is entirely dependent on others for the barest necessities of life. The Lady Superintendent of St. Faith's is trying to raise the sum of £50 "to turn a cruel existence into a life of comparative ease and comfort." She will be willing to answer questions concerning the case, and will thankfully receive any contributions sent her for this object.

The nineteenth annual report of the Queen's Nurses' work in Scotland is evidence of constant progress, and at the annual general meeting of subscribers and friends Lord Provost Gibson, who presided, pleaded for further financial support. He also alluded to the Home, Colinton Cottage, provided for Queen's Nurses by the late Miss Guthrie Wright, and mentioned that a friend had offered to give one half of what was required to make up the endowment of £2,000, provided the remainder, £335, could be raised within three months. We hope this can be done, as the Home is altogether charming, and managed in the happiest way.

The course of lectures to the pupils of the new school at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, which has been arranged with great care, and is very thorough and complete, has now been begun. The 100 additional pupils are all

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)