

The Irish Nursing World.

We greatly regret to learn from Miss Workman, the Hon. Secretary, that the Nurses' Club Room in Belfast was closed on 1st September owing to want of funds. This Club was associated with the Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association. The lectures and social evenings, which are greatly appreciated, will be held during the coming autumn and winter, the latter in the Deaf and Dumb Institute in College Square.

Nurses of all women are the least clubbable, and the reason is not far to seek. The long hours of work in the wards and the lack of private rooms in the majority of Nurses' Homes, make many nurses long for mental rest. They do not want to touch hospital and nursing interests when off duty. Complete change of environment is the first necessity to relieve the mental strain of nursing—a strain the physical exhaustion of which is seldom realised to its full extent. When off duty, to be out of doors in all weathers, and to get into some home in touch with commonplace domesticity, with friends, animals, or a book, is what the majority of nurses love, and, when the fates are propitious, a chance of listening to music or seeing a play is a sure antidote to brain and heart strain inseparable from true nursing. Clubs for nurses have been tried on several occasions and found wanting; all the same, they have their uses, and it is no doubt disappointing to those who have given so much time and work to organising that in Belfast to see it closed.

The Reports of the Irish Nurses' Association and the Irish Matrons' Association, 1909-1910, have just been issued a little late owing to official changes. The Executive Committee are pleased to state that the Irish Nurses' Association, founded ten years ago by a few Matrons as a Club, has now grown to be a strong and useful organisation. During the year 582 new members have joined, making a total of 789 names on the roll, and the Committee point out that at this critical time in the history of nursing organisation, when State Registration is a question of practical politics, it is the duty of nurses to combine to make the Association as representative as possible, in order that they may form part of the Central Registration Committee, and, by assuming responsibility, guard their interests and that of the profession generally. The report alludes to the immensely beneficial result of co-operation, as evidenced by the great educational and social success of the Interna-

tional Congress of Nurses in London last year; and Irish nurses evidently intend to do their part to be well represented at the coming Congress in Cologne in 1912.

The Irish Matrons' Association continues to form a useful link between the heads of the training schools in Dublin. It is doing good, steady work, and several questions have been discussed by its members during the past year in friendly consultation, which is the very best way of making harmonious progress towards professional ideals. English, Scottish, and Irish Matrons are now associated in professional councils; some day, no doubt, they will affiliate, each maintaining their distinctive national characteristics whilst combining for consultative purposes where standards of nursing are concerned. Matrons are such busy women, such co-operation would be most helpful to those who are anxious to avail themselves of the experience of others.

SUTTON HOLIDAY HOME AND PREVENTORIUM

The Women's National Health Association of Ireland held the first annual meeting of this Home on August 31st. In the active crusade which is going on against tuberculosis, this holiday home is perhaps the greatest help of any.

A disused coastguard station on the Hill of Howth, near Dublin, was taken over a year ago, for the purpose of giving those who have been in contact with tuberculosis, or who are in a delicate or debilitated state of health, and so liable to fall victims to illness of any kind, a few weeks in pure fresh air, with a good wholesome and generous diet and plenty of amusement. The little cottages are all nicely furnished, each inmate having a single bedroom, while there is one common dining room and sitting room. It was furnished and started through the kindness of Irish friends in the City of Boston, Mass., who gave the Countess of Aberdeen, during her visit there last year, the necessary funds. A trained nurse belonging to the Q.V.J.I. is in charge, and two doctors in Howth act as hon. physicians. During the year 125 persons have been received as inmates, ranging in age from a baby of 5 weeks to an old man of over 100. All have gone back to their homes refreshed and invigorated, and in most cases the Home has proved a real "Preventorium," as the patient would, without doubt, have succumbed to illness, but for its timely help. There is no danger to residents in the district, as no one suffering from illness is admitted, no case is admitted without strict investigation. This first Home has proved such a boon that it is hoped to establish others all

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