

The Nurses' Memorial to King Edward the Seventh.

We regret that the following paragraph was received last week too late for insertion:—

"A meeting of Matrons, representing the nursing profession in London and the provinces, was held at Westminster Hospital on Tuesday, October 18th, to consider the proposed Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII.

"Sir Everard Hambro (Chairman of the Royal National Pension Fund), attended the meeting and explained his scheme for the establishment of King Edward the Seventh Homes for Nurses no longer able to work. After it was ascertained from Sir Everard Hambro that his scheme was intended to include all nurses, whether policy holders or not, the meeting decided to do all in their power to further the scheme propounded, and steps will immediately be taken to communicate with all interested to this effect.

"Stipulation is made that those entitled to share in the benefits of these Homes should be in a position to support themselves while in the Homes, as it is not thought advisable to establish almshouses. The charges for rooms will be fixed at the discretion of the Committee, and will be made as low as is consistent with the self-supporting principle of the scheme.

"It was also settled that this Committee will be entitled to nominate representatives to serve upon the Committee of Management of the Homes."

Since we received this paragraph our representative has interviewed the Acting Hon. Secretary, Miss Mabel Cave, Matron of the Westminster Hospital, who kindly furnished the following information.

The Committee is at present formed of the following Matrons and others:—Miss Hamilton (St. Thomas's), Miss Haughton (Guy's), Miss McIntosh (St. Bartholomew's), Miss Ray (King's), Miss Cave (Westminster), Miss McCall Anderson (St. George's), Miss Heather-Bigg (Charing Cross), Miss Finch (University), Miss Davies (St. Mary's), Miss Cox-Davies (Royal Free), Miss Lloyd Still (Middlesex), Miss Morgan (Northern Hospital, M.A.B.), Miss Vincent (late Matron, Marylebone Infirmary), Miss Becher (Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.), Miss Stansfeld (Chief Woman Inspector Local Government Board), Miss Swift (late Matron of Guy's), Mrs. Lucas (Nurses' Co-operation), Mrs. Minet and Miss Peterkin (Q.V.J.I.), Miss Rogers (Leicester), Miss Musson (Birmingham), Miss Sparshott

(Manchester), Miss Bailey (Bristol), Miss Herbert (Worcester), and Miss Gill (Edinburgh).

In reply to an enquiry as to whether the public would be asked to subscribe, Miss Cave replied that donations from the public would not be refused; it was probable that they would be invited.

In regard to the charge for rooms, she stated that this must depend upon the funds in the hands of the Committee, but it was hoped to make a low charge, and to provide a central kitchen from which food could be obtained at cost price.

The Committee knew so many nurses who were living on 10s. a week that it was thought it would be very helpful if they could be provided with comfortable rooms at a low cost. The scheme would be administered from the Pension Fund Office, representatives of the present Committee being appointed to work with members of the Committee of the Fund. Miss Cave was particularly anxious, however, for it to be understood that participation in the scheme would not be confined to policy holders in the R.N.P.F.

On enquiry as to the method by which the recent meeting represented the nursing profession, as many Societies and Leagues of Nurses had so far not been consulted, Miss Cave said that the scheme was still in its infancy, and seemed to think that the nurses in these societies would be approached through the Matrons of their respective hospitals. The Matrons were now acquainted with the scheme, and would, no doubt, put it before them.

In regard to the localities in which Homes would be provided, Miss Cave mentioned London and Edinburgh as probable centres at first. Ireland had so far not come into line, as it had its own scheme. The extension of the Homes depended upon the funds at the command of the Committee.

Nurses' Social Union.

By the kindness of Colonel and Mrs. Wyatt-Edgell, a meeting was recently held at Cowley House to start a branch of the Nurses' Social Union for Exeter and district. Lady Acland was in the chair. Miss Eden, the central organiser, from Taunton, gave a most interesting address on the work and aims of the Union. This was followed by tea, and an entertainment given by Miss Wyatt-Edgell's Morris dancers. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent. Eighteen nurses sent in their names as wishing to join. A committee was formed, with Miss Alice Saunders, of The Cottage, Alphington, as hon. secretary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)