

A New Residential Home for Nurses.

In one of the spacious and well built houses on the sunny side, and at the quiet end, of Norfolk Square, W., Miss Amy Downey has just opened a new Residential Home for Nurses. Miss Downey is an experienced nurse and a certified midwife, and is the late Matron of the Mental Nurses' Co-operation. She understands the needs of nurses, and is very desirous that at 44, Norfolk Square they shall find refinement, comfort, and congenial society.

The house impresses one at first sight with its cheerfulness, freshness, and absence of any institutional atmosphere. One ascends the staircase to the drawing-room over a soft Axminster carpet, noting in passing an alcove furnished with chairs and a table, on which an ash tray indicates the obvious intention of this corner. The drawing-room itself is quite charming, square, with large French windows, opening on to a balcony where tea can be taken. The paper in this room is of a soft shade of blue, and the carpet in warm shades of golden brown, with touches of pink and blue here and there. It is most comfortably furnished, the furniture including a grand piano, and here on Sunday—from 3 to 6—nurses can receive guests of either sex, tea being provided without extra charge, a unique privilege which they are sure to appreciate. Nearly every room in the house has been freshly papered, in excellent taste. Two or three nurses are accommodated in most of the bedrooms, but plenty of screens are provided in every instance, and there are a few single rooms.

The dining-room is a very pleasant room, connected with the kitchen by a service lift; the china pantry is stocked with dainty china and some wonderfully pretty desert plates in Venetian glass. The prevailing note of the crockery—and, indeed, of the whole house—is green, and a green and white dinner service finds place on the dresser in the cheerful kitchen.

Miss Downey's terms are most moderate, inclusive charges being from 17s. 6d. to 25s. per week, or 4s. 6d. by the day. The only extras are 3d. per week for storage of boxes in a nurse's absence, 3d. per week contribution to paper fund, and 2d. for telephone messages. Norfolk Square is very centrally situated, as it is close to Paddington and Praed Street Stations, and about five minutes from Lancaster Gate Tube.

We think that any nurse visiting the Home cannot fail to be impressed with its advantages for an occasional or permanent resident.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The King has become Patron of University College Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, and the Royal Ear Hospital, Soho, and the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. His Majesty, while giving his Patronage to the Seamen's Hospital Society (the Dreadnought), has intimated that he has increased the Royal subscription to 100 guineas per annum.

His Majesty the King has graciously consented to become Patron of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Institute was founded in 1876, and it is carrying on a large work in teaching and examining in hygiene and sanitary science, both in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the Empire. It maintains in London a permanent Museum of Sanitary Appliances, open free to the public. Its members and associates number nearly 4,000.

As the result principally of a report by Sir Arthur Downes for the Local Government Board, the Metropolitan Asylums Board have decided to make a radical alteration in their hospital system. There is now frequently a large number of unoccupied beds in the fever and small-pox hospitals, which it is thought might be beneficially used for additional classes of patients, and for meeting the growing demands on the children and imbeciles departments. The Managers of the Asylums Board have therefore decided "that the Local Government Board be informed that the Managers are willing to arrange for the reception, tentatively, of measles and other approved diseases in their fever hospitals, provided the Local Government Board can empower them to admit selected cases from the poorer classes, for which no accommodation is now available." The latter clause was due to the report of Dr. H. E. Cuff, the medical officer of the Board for general purposes, who is of opinion that there is adequate accommodation in Metropolitan Workhouse Infirmary for pauper cases of measles. The need is for accommodation for cases from the poor classes, not necessarily paupers. Dr. Cuff is of opinion that the measures of disinfection required to prevent the risk of the interchange of measles and whooping in the same hospital with other infectious fevers would be simple, and that the only alteration necessary in the internal arrangements of the hospital would be to allot separate receiving rooms. Dr. J. Kerr is quoted by Dr. Cuff as stating that the isolation of measles in hospital can be more than justified, as a means of saving the lives of the poor.

The Asylums Board also adopted a recommendation to make arrangements for the reception of cases of puerperal fever in their hospitals. The weight of testimony is that the reception of these cases into hospital is advantageous to the patients and removes a possible source of danger to others. The Park Hospital is to be reserved for sick and debilitated children.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)