

leave whose papers were seized and deposited in the basement. The week was a very busy one. Everyone came to the General Hospital for information; there arrived telephones, telegrams, despatches, nurses from all round, and everyone from factory girls upwards wanted to nurse; the ground floor corridor had a queue like that of a theatre. The last straw was when she was rung up on the outside telephone to find that she was expected to explain how to make a shirt for a soldier to someone who had never made one.

In addition to the hospital in the University at Bournebrook, which at first had 520 beds and now 1,040, it had been found necessary in connection with the territorial organization to open an Out-patient Department in the centre of the city, where men coming home to Birmingham on leave, and needing dressings and massage, could be treated; this had been secured at the Children's Hospital; then the big Poor Law Infirmary, at Dudley Road, with 1,560 beds, and its nursing staff, had been taken over. There was the anomaly here that the poor law probationers, perhaps in their third year, were being paid less than the V.A.D. workers with no previous training, who received £20 a year. A strong protest to the Local Government Board had resulted in this being rectified. Next, the Stourbridge Infirmary, with accommodation for 300—and now 400—beds was secured. The only official taken over here was the workhouse master, who made an excellent quartermaster.

The Council Schools at Selly Park and King's Heath were then adapted, and made excellent hospitals, but, unfortunately, they were in localities where it was difficult to find any places for the nurses to live in, and when the houses were found the drainage systems would not stand the number of baths required; however, all these difficulties were eventually overcome.

No description of the work would be complete without mention of the Lady Mayoress's Depôt. When the hospital was mobilised, the Needlework Guilds of Warwickshire and Worcestershire redeemed their promise to provide it with necessary garments; then, sensible people remembered the waste during the South African campaign, and a meeting was called by the Lady Mayoress to deal with patterns and materials. The General Hospital patterns were supplied, and standard ones cut by a tailor in the city. A list is put up in the Depôt of what garments are needed, and, indeed, whenever she needs anything—even lounge chairs, cushions, and tobacco—Miss Musson said that she sends to the Lady Mayoress's Depôt and it is supplied.

AIR RAIDS.

A most interesting and amusing paper was read by Miss Bryan, on "Air Raids, and the Work of the National Guard," which was greeted with irrepressible laughter, which it would have done the Kaiser good to hear.

In the Nurses' Home, where the members adjourned for tea, there was a splendid show of gifts for the Territorial Hospital at Camberwell.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, from whom a large number of Forms of Application for Membership have been requisitioned since the issue of the Stanley Circular, desires to inform trained nurses wishing to join the Society at this crisis, that they will find a form on page viii, in this week's issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Every trained nurse who aspires to rank as a qualified professional woman, as her colleagues in many of our Dominions and the United States do, should come out courageously and take her stand for legal status by Act of Parliament. Any voluntary system of organization for the Nursing Profession at this period of its history is quite useless to effect any real reform or the protection of the public.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with many thanks the following donations:—Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, £1 1s.; Miss M. Winmill, 10s.; Miss E. M. Cancellor, 10s.; Miss F. E. Marquardt, 10s.; Miss A. M. Bushby, 10s.; Miss G. R. Hale, 10s.; Miss M. Lord, 10s.; Miss M. M. Lloyd, 5s.; Miss C. A. Barling, 5s.; Miss Elma Smith, 5s.; Mrs. Bridges, 5s.; Miss A. Smith, 5s.; Miss Helen Todd, 5s.; Miss E. M. Waind, 2s. 6d.; Miss Lee Smith, 2s. 6d.; Miss L. W. Holford, 2s.; Miss F. K. Alexander, 2s.; Miss Mary E. Barron, 2s.; Miss C. M. McCarthy, 1s. 6d.; Miss J. Macdonald, 1s. 6d.

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association is being held in Glasgow on Thursday this week. The President, Mrs. Strong, formerly Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and the pioneer of preliminary education for nurses, writes in reference to the Hon. Arthur Stanley's Circular Letter:—

"A very strong protest is needed against introducing any further complications into our nursing politics; chaos abounds as it is, and a Voluntary College would be one more difficulty to contend against. Nothing less than a State-controlled curriculum, with its attendant exams. to qualify for a Diploma, will suffice. Those who think we wish to exclude the unqualified from practising are labouring under a delusion: it is classification we want, to enable the public to distinguish for themselves, and to ensure to them the services of a trained nurse, if they are willing to pay for such, and if not, they can make their own terms with the unqualified. The qualified nurse needs protection, and to be 'Hall marked.' This can only come through the State."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)