

suitable appliances and couches. There are also beautiful X-ray and dark rooms for eye work.

The commodious kitchen contains all that the heart of a cook can wish, and the linen room is overflowing with desirable stores.

The capable Matron, Mrs. Creagh, was trained at the Royal Free Hospital, and has lately been working in Pretoria and Winburg. During the Boer War she gained great experience in nursing the wounded at Standerton. But in spite of her kind reception and courtesy in showing us so many interesting things, we came away a little depressed. Green-eyed monster? Yes. Partly on account of the beautiful hospital and the splendid opportunities of service, to visit a war hospital always makes one long to be "in it"; but primarily because our professional sisters from over the water have legal status and can put their chins in the air in consequence—whilst the trained nurses of the Mother Country who have borne so much of the burden and heat of the day have no State recognition whatever. H. H.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The British Red Cross has arranged to send to France a fleet of motor dental ambulances. The staff will consist of a dental surgeon and dental mechanic, and the ambulances will go far forward so as to be within reach of men in the trenches. They will do all ordinary dental work, but they are specially intended to deal with cases of men who are suffering from acute lesions of the teeth and gums, or what used to be known under the generic term of toothache, and with men whose artificial dentures have got out of order.

The Wounded Allies' Relief Committee has arranged for two special grants to be made to the Committee for the Relief of Belgian Prisoners in Germany. These grants will benefit not only sick and wounded Belgian prisoners in Germany, but also those interned in Switzerland. The Committee is also granting a sum to be devoted to providing books and games for patients in Belgian hospitals.

For the relief of sick and suffering Serbian soldiers, the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., has recently shipped off to Corfu quantities of hospital stores of all kinds that are urgently needed both by the Committee's own hospital staff at Corfu and by the Serbian Red Cross Society. A Ford touring motor-car has also been dispatched as an aid to relief work on the part of the Committee's Administrator.

Miss Kathleen Burke has collected £10,000 of American money during a three-months' tour in the United States and Canada for the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund, and in addition has promises of £5,000 more.

THE NURSING CONFERENCE.

(Concluded from page 30.)

At the Conference of the National Union of Trained Nurses, held at 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, on Thursday, June 29th, when Miss Cancellor resumed the chair, after the interval for tea, she called on Miss H. L. Pearse to read a paper on the Economic Position of Nurses.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF NURSES.

Miss Pearse said that she would be very brief and only intended to start a discussion on this important and difficult question. The payment the nurse received in this country bore little relation to her skill, or to the period spent in acquiring that skill. The reason lay in the present lack of union amongst nurses, and the remedy in State Registration, with a recognised standard of training, a definition of the term "Trained Nurse," and the protection of her uniform from use by the unskilled worker and the impostor.

Now to consider what a nurse had to spend on obtaining her training, and what living she could make by her knowledge when trained.

Training expenses might be classified as Time and Money.

(1) *Time*.—The usual training period was three years in a general hospital, or infirmary, and this could not begin till the probationer was 21 years of age. When training did not begin till so late there was an expensive gap between the time that she left school, and the time that she could become self-supporting, and then, during the three or four years that she was training, she would only earn from £40 to £50 in salary plus lodging, board and uniform. One could therefore hardly call her self-supporting during training. The nurse, therefore, could not expect to earn a living by her profession for six or seven years after she left school, a very long and expensive period.

True, this period might be regarded as apprenticeship, but she was worth to the institution what it would have to pay if the probationer were not available, and it was questionable whether a much better arrangement could not be made from the nurse's point of view.

Then as to the fruit of her training. The payment of trained nurses varied considerably, but not on the side of generosity. Only the private nurse earned sufficient to enable her to make provision for old age. Usually nurses were expected to live in, keep was provided, and a nurse's salary represented the amount she could spend on dress and holidays and also what she could save.

In most institutions this salary ranged from £30 to £45 per annum; in private work from £2 2s. to £3 3s. per week (for infectious cases); in work where she had to live out from a minimum of £75 to a maximum of £130, unless she obtained a post which required long experience or further qualifications.

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