

grate, and no means either of preparing a simple meal or of taking a hot bath.

At the recent National Economy Exhibition at Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, a practical demonstration of overcoming these difficulties was given in the room designed by Miss Winifred James, the furnishing of which, in comfort and good taste, cost £2 15s. prior to the war, and at the present time £3 10s. The comfort of this self-contained room, with the means for heating, cooking, and water supply for a hot bath, were made possible by the use of gas, and a room more elaborately furnished, but still within the means of many private and district nurses and midwives, can be arranged with the aid of the same medium, and fresh paper and paint and pretty chintzes will at small cost convert it into a desirable home. There is the gas fire, which, within a few minutes of lighting, affords cheerful warmth and comfort; a gas cooker, which when not in use is concealed in an oaken cabinet in the form of a bureau, on the doors of which there is room for the cooking utensils; in a corner of the room which is curtained off a bath is installed, with a gas water-heater, which provides hot water instantaneously, so that there are all the elements on which a daintily clean and cosy home in good taste can be built up. In the case of a private nurse the room should be in the house of someone who can be depended on to take telephone messages accurately, as calls in the nurse's absence must be answered and sent on, or she will lose her connexion, but with this provision made she can enjoy her cosy home in comfort, and, whatever time of the day or night she is summoned, she can always secure a hot meal before leaving for her case.

The National Poor Law Officers' Association are greatly perturbed about the constitution of the Executive Committee (the Council) of the College of Nursing, and consider that, because there are more beds in Poor Law infirmaries than in voluntary hospitals, municipal authorities should have proportional representation. Mr. Percival, the active President, and Dr. Williams discussed the College of Nursing scheme at length at the annual meeting, and the latter proposed, and the former seconded, the following resolution:—"That a communication be addressed to each Branch Agent requesting that an early opportunity be taken to consider the position of Poor Law Nurses in regard to the College of Nursing, with a view to calling a special meeting of nurses within the area of the Branch to discuss the matter, and to secure their adherence to the Association in larger numbers, and to give the Association

absolute authority to speak on their behalf and take the necessary steps to protect their interests. That to secure this end, the Branches be urged to form a nursing committee, with its own President and Secretary, reporting their recommendations to the Branch general meeting."

The resolution was adopted.

The question of selecting representatives to be nominated on the Executive (the Council) of the College was then considered, and after considerable debate it was resolved that the Parliamentary Committee should approve of the nomination of representatives to act on the Executive Committee of the College under the guidance of the Parliamentary Committee.

Under the auspices of the East Yorkshire branch of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association a meeting of nurses was held at the Board Room at the Anlaby Road Workhouse last Saturday. Mr. R. H. Winter (clerk to the Hull Board of Guardians) presided, and Mr. T. Percival, president of the National Association, gave an address on the College of Nursing.

About fifty nurses attended.

Mr. Percival said the College of Nursing had drafted a Registration Bill, and it would shortly be submitted to Parliament. Under its provisions no nurse would be qualified to register unless she was twenty-one years of age, of good character, and held a certificate of three years' training in a training school, or had undergone two years' training at the London Hospital, followed by outdoor nursing. Lord Knutsford, of the London Hospital, was in favour of the Bill, and would support it in Parliament. The College would recognise the certificates issued by the training schools in which the curriculum came up to the approved standard. Mr. Percival said he had been surprised to find that in some quarters Poor-law training of nurses was considered inferior to the training received in general hospitals. That was an entirely erroneous impression. At the present time the Poor-law nursing certificates were the only nursing certificates that were State-recognised. The yearly output of nurses with three years' training from Poor-law training schools was 1,400. If the Bill became law it would mean that no nurse could practise as a nurse unless her name appeared on the register, so that the Bill had far-reaching effects. Mr. Percival urged Poor-law nurses to join the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, in order to secure representation in the formation of the council of the College of Nursing, and to protect their interests generally.

The Chairman pointed out that under the Bill the registration of nurses was compulsory.

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