

and homes for nurses know the anxiety which such management has entailed during the last few years. There is the problem to be faced that, while the cost of living has risen from fifty to a hundred per cent, pay remains stationary, and incomes have a tendency to shrink. There is the dearth of domestic labour, and there is the upheaval in the nursing world caused by the fact that so many nurses who ordinarily are engaged in private nursing work are now on war service, and therefore do not as usual use the homes organized for their benefit between cases, whilst others, passing to and fro, often use hostels provided for their benefit at a free, or nominal cost, so that the proprietress of a home finds it very difficult to meet the situation.

One of the Homes which is always popular with nurses is the Kensington Gardens Nurses' Club, 56 and 57, Kensington Gardens Square, W., which is conveniently near Paddington Station and Queen's Road, Bayswater, and the facilities offered by the different routes of tubes, underground, and buses. One of the causes for its popularity is undoubtedly the admirable telephone service. Nothing is more important to a private nurse than that telephone calls should be promptly answered, and messages accurately received and delivered if the nurse is not in the house to receive them herself, and this important point receives the personal attention of the proprietor, Miss Bertha Cave, who is herself an experienced nurse, who has had experience of private nursing, and is therefore well acquainted with the needs of those engaged in this work. The meals are served at small tables, always conducive to sociability, and the "hedge-sparrows," the small maids who have received their name because of the colour of their overalls, wait deftly and courteously. If the residents wish, their meals can be served for a small extra charge in their own rooms when they come in tired, and as gas fires are laid on in most of the bedrooms, this is a real boon. Another attraction of the Club is the telephone, which has been installed on a separate line, so that the telephone service is not disturbed. There is always a very happy and friendly atmosphere in the house, and Miss Cave, who devotes herself to its welfare, is always at hand to deal with the many small items requiring adjustment as they arise.

The last issue of the *South African Nursing Record* reports that "Miss French has been appointed Nurse-Examiner by the Transvaal Medical Council, and will be the Examiner in practical ward work at the forthcoming final

examinations in the Transvaal in April. Miss French was trained at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and stayed on the staff after completion of training, holding many important positions, and was Assistant Matron for some time before she left her training school. She came to South Africa in 1901, and was appointed Matron of Heidelberg Hospital, which post she held till the hospital closed down in 1904. She has been Matron at the Wit Deep Hospital for twelve and a half years, retiring from that position in October, 1916. Miss French is eminently well fitted for the post to which she has been appointed, and of which she is the pioneer in South Africa. The appointment is the result of a resolution passed at the first meeting of the Central Board of the Trained Nurses' Association, which suggested that practical ward work ought to have more consideration in the Final Examination of Nurses. The recommendation was favourably considered by the members of the Transvaal Medical Council, who are ever ready to improve the training and status of nurses by their valuable help and advice; and we hope this innovation, which widens the scope of the Final Examination considerably, will raise the standard and make the training of Transvaal nurses of more value."

LAY CONTROL FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

A meeting in support of the College of Nursing, Limited, was held in the Board Room, Birmingham Union, on March 27th, called by Miss Bodley (Selly Oak) for the Poor Law Nurses of the district. Miss Barton, President of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, presided, and Miss Alsop, Hon. Secretary, gave an address in which she warmly advocated the College Scheme as a means to State Registration and better education of trained nurses. Miss Rundle, the Secretary of the College, also spoke of its aims and objects, and although discussion followed and questions were asked, the nurses were not informed that the College was a lay corporation, or that practising nurses, other than matrons, had been refused all direct representation on its Council—and also on the proposed Council to be set up, if amalgamation with the Royal British Nurses' Association takes place, the College had nominated Matrons only. We are of opinion that Birmingham Poor Law Nurses should hear both sides of this professional question before supporting an organisation practically governed by lay Hospital Committees—through their nominees, the Matrons, who, with the best intentions, are not independent, and thus forging a system of economic control for the nursing profession, which deprives it of representative government and freedom of action.

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