

letter to the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London in December last: it is doing His Majesty a very poor service to permit him to run the risk of blame for neglect and injury to the devoted nursing staff at Bart's. We hope the Governors will respond wholeheartedly, as suggested by Lord Sandhurst, as to providing a new Nurses' Home.

We are glad to note the Nursing Staff are congratulated on the honours they have received for war work, and that the emoluments of the probationers have been considerably increased. The Sisters and senior officers are generously remunerated, and their off-duty time at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is most liberal.

The Establishment Committee of the London County Council reported to the Council last Tuesday that they have not deemed it desirable to revise the scale of salaries of the school nurses in the Public Health Department during the war, though they have granted war wages of 9s. a week, but the nursing staff—141 in number—have submitted a petition asking that the matter may be reconsidered. The Committee still think the time inopportune for a revision of the scale, but consider there is justification for increasing the amount of war wages, especially as there has been a considerable number of resignations among the staff in order to take up more remunerative work. They now recommend that, as from the 1st July, 1918, until the expiration of six months after the declaration of peace, the war wages of 9s. a week granted to the assistant superintendents of school nurses and the nurses serving on the permanent staff in the public health department, be increased by £50 a year. This recommendation is approved by the Finance Committee, and provision is made in its estimates for the necessary increase as a matter of urgency.

We hear from several Matrons of country hospitals that it is almost impossible to get suitable trained women to fill the positions of sister and night sister. We wonder if an increase of salary to £50 annually would not meet with some response. Hospital committees should realise that the supply of really well-trained and first-class women is not at present equal to the demand. The law of economics demands an uprising scale of remuneration. The new-laid summer penny egg is now 5d.; for a spring chicken anything from 10s. to 15s. Either you must pay for them or go without. It appears a simple proposition.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

THE NEW REGISTER.

The new Parliament Bill brings the next general election a little nearer, for it is understood that this Bill will be the last of the series. If an election is to take place before the end of the year a great speeding up of the new register will be necessary. Women are all longing for a new Parliament which they have helped to elect. We want young fresh men (and women, if we may have them) full of patriotism and energy. We want to set to and get things done for the benefit of the people.

MAKE SURE.

The new voters' lists are being posted at post offices, churches, chapels, and public buildings. All qualified, including women over 30, should see their names are included. If not, information must be given to the local registration officer before July 17.

WE OFFER SYMPATHY.

We offer sincere sympathy to our American Sisters, that after all their strenuous work, into which many of them, like Lavinia Deck, have put their whole heart, the requisite two-thirds majority in the Senate of the United States was not obtained for the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Federal Constitution, in spite of the President having openly advocated woman suffrage for the United States, as part of the creed of democracy for which the war is being fought. A few reactionary Senators have turned it down, men, we learn, described as "crusted Tories and Junkers, old slave holders." The result is that, after a battle of nearly thirty years to get the Federal Amendment through Congress, it will be necessary for the women to begin all over again at the next session to put the measure through the lower House. Anyway, these "old slave holders" who defeated the amendment have given abroad in enemy countries the impression that America is not as far advanced as her slogans of democracy would indicate. She must wipe out this impression at the first possible opportunity.

SANITAS.

A most satisfactory report was presented at the twentieth ordinary general meeting of the "Sanitas" Company, Ltd., on July 3rd, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. The Chairman, Mr. C. T. Kingzett, F.I.C., F.C.S., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that the business of the company had been well maintained. In some directions there had been great extensions, notwithstanding the difficulties attendant upon trading in these days—the scarcity of materials, difficulties of securing licences to obtain them, scarcity of freight, depletion of staff, and so forth. The volume of trade had nevertheless increased proportionately. Both sales and profit constituted a record in the history of the company. The reserve fund has been increased by over £7,000, and the total dividend for the year has been 8 per cent.

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