

EDITH CAVELL HOME OF REST, RICHMOND.

The new Edith Cavell Home of Rest for Nurses, which was opened a few weeks ago at Richmond, is now in full working order. It is situated in Church Road, within a few minutes' walk of Richmond Park. A fine double-fronted house has been secured for the purpose and, through the munificence of Colonel Sir Wyndham and Lady Wyndham Murray the purchase money has been forthcoming, also the equipment and the total working expenses for the first year. These generous donors have not done their work of love by halves. The house has been furnished from top to bottom not only with substantial comfort, but with the refined taste and reposefulness that one expects to find in a prosperous, well-appointed private dwelling. The walls of the handsome dining room are decorated with a soft, warm shade of cream which harmonises charmingly with the brown panelling and the carved oak mantelpiece and imposing side-board. The floor is covered with most delectable Indian carpets and rugs, the soft eastern colouring of which adds the last word to this thoroughly attractive apartment. The double drawing room is not one whit behind in its appointments. A cosy Chesterfield, deep lounge chairs covered with gay rose-patterned cretonne were, on the occasion of our visit, drawn up before a blazing fire and were occupied by guests who apparently were fully appreciating the goods the gods had provided. A cabinet in this room contained some beautiful specimens of old Chelsea china, and the patron Saint of the Home—a small statuette of St. Cecilia, by Mrs. Watt—Cecilia being the first name of Lady Wyndham Murray.

Each guest has a room to herself. This does not imply just a spot that she can call her own for the time being, but a really spacious room containing everything that a pretty, comfortable bedroom should, and, joy to tired nurses, breakfast is served in bed.

Fortunate indeed, are the nurses who find themselves invited to spend a few weeks in so charming an environment.

But a house, however desirable, would prove a dead sea apple unless the hostess was in harmony with her surroundings and, above all, with her guests. We are not merely guessing when we say that in Miss Margaret Carruthers the committee have chosen both wisely and well. Her popularity in her late position as matron of the Kensington Children's Hospital and Dispensary was shown by the many valuable gifts that she received on her retirement, and in her charming sitting room at the Edith Cavell Home we were shown the beautiful silver bowl that was presented to her by H.R.H. the Princess Louise, together with her photograph.

A Home opened under such exceptionally advantageous circumstances is bound to be the success that we confidently predict for it.

H. H.

The suggestion is being made that the bodies of Nurse Cavell and Captain Fryatt should be brought to England on board the *Vindictive*.

PRESENTATIONS.

Miss Margaret Carruthers, who recently resigned the Matronship of the Kensington Children's Hospital and Dispensary, was invited to attend the meeting of the Committee last week, when she was presented with a cheque as a mark of appreciation of her fourteen and a-half years' service as Matron. Mr. Frank Mellor, who had organised the gift, subscribed for by members of the Committee and Governors, made the presentation, and conveyed to Miss Carruthers their appreciation of her work and their regret at losing her services.

Miss Carruthers had previously been the recipient of a lovely silver bowl, and framed photograph, from H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, the Patroness and President of the Hospital, and of a black Wedgewood bowl from the Nursing Staff.

She has now as we report above taken up her new work at the Edith Cavell Home at Richmond.

At the Newtown War Hospital recently, Sister McCreath, who has been Sister-in-Charge of the hospital since it was opened in 1917, was presented with a silver tea service by past and present patients. The presentation was made by Sergeant Thompson, and in acknowledging the gift Sister McCreath said it would remind her of some of the happiest months of her life.

"A MEDIUM OF MISREPRESENTATION."

Miss Gertrude Cowlin, organising secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has a letter in the December number of the *South African Nursing Record*, in reply to one previously published from Miss B. Kent, in which she makes untrue statements concerning the criticism in this country, of the College Constitution and the policy of its supporters, in their attitude to the organised Nurses' Societies composed of pioneer State Registrationists.

Miss Cowlin invites South African nurses to investigate the matter for themselves, and straightway leads them astray. Miss Cowlin would have South African nurses ask why "the leading matrons of our training schools in London and the Provinces, supported by ten thousand nurses, are behind the College if it is as your Journal suggests—an incomplete and inadequate measure."

This conundrum is not difficult of solution. Realise that the majority of these matrons opposed for years the demand of trained nurses for State Registration, and terrorised their subordinates on the question. Why? Because their Committees opposed a reform which would emancipate trained nurses and help to make them independent, and it was to the self-interest of these matrons to support the Committees. Did they not sign innumerable manifestoes in which

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)