

HOSPITALS FOR THE NEW POOR.

NURSING HOME, CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, STREATHAM.

Though the "new poor" have not many temporal mercies to be grateful for at this present crisis, one very substantial mercy has been provided for them by the local branch of the Red Cross at Streatham.

At the close of the war, the committee, finding that they had a substantial surplus of money in hand, purchased the house which had been doing duty as a V.A. Hospital, and presented it, for the purpose of a medical and surgical nursing home for the "new poor," and to this class of sufferers it is to be strictly confined. The uniform inclusive fee is to be £3 to 3 guineas weekly. Admission will be through the doctor in attendance on the patients, and the latter will thus have the privilege of being attended by their own medical man.

The house, a commodious one, in Christchurch Road will accommodate twenty-six patients of both sexes. It is moreover exceedingly well planned and fitted with every convenience for the efficient working of a modern nursing home. When in full working order, the nursing staff is to be provided with sleeping accommodation out, the Matron only having a bedroom on the premises.

The wards hold a varying number of beds, the largest providing for eight patients. The wall-papers have been chosen with thought and care, according to the aspect of the room, and are of soft shades of green or grey.

In the women's wards each bed is curtained, so that the patient can secure absolute privacy if she so desire. In all the rooms the bed curtains are of a deep shade of heliotrope, which harmonises extremely well with the pink bedspreads and the dainty mats of soft Persian hues. The men's wards are not curtained, but are provided with an ample number of screens. The lockers are of metal, enamelled white, and under each bed is a wooden stool which will serve a useful turn when lockers are otherwise engaged. A well-stocked bookcase is a feature in every ward.

On each landing provision is made for the preparation of the trays for meals which it is considered will relieve the congestion in the kitchen at meal time.

There is ample lavatory and bath accommodation, which is fitted with the latest sanitary improvements.

The theatre was equipped for the use of the wounded by the generosity of the Streatham Congregational Church without regard to expense, and the Home is to be congratulated on such a thoroughly up-to-date possession.

The central heating secures hot towel rails, airing cupboards, hot blankets ready for emergency cases, besides the general heating of wards and passages.

The fine conservatory is fitted as a lounge, which will no doubt prove a great boon to convalescent cases. The administration is greatly assisted by

the convenient cupboards and storerooms which abound on every floor.

In the basement there are a large kitchen, scullery, housemaid's closet, pantry, all well arranged and planned. The sinks are of teak with a view to minimise the mortality in crockery.

The Matron is Miss Bessie Carley, R.R.C., who was trained at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington, and was the medallist of her year.

During the recent war she served in France in the T.F.N.S., first as Sister and then as Assistant Matron, and was then drafted to the clearing stations. She is to be assisted by three qualified nurses, two paid probationers, and a certain amount of voluntary assistance from V.A.D.s who during the war acted in that capacity in the same house while it was serving as a soldiers' hospital.

Apparently nothing has been omitted that will minister to the comfort of the patients and to the efficient working of the home.

The ambulance, which was purchased by the Streatham Red Cross, is lodged in the adjoining garage, and is driven by the factotum who is gardener, porter and chauffeur all in one.

This Home meets one of the most urgent needs of the day, and it is to be hoped that many more of a like character will spring up all over the country.

Great care will be exercised in the Streatham venture to ascertain that applicants for admission are not able to pay more than £3 3s. fee, so that there will be no undercutting of the more expensive nursing homes.

BRUSSELS HEALTH CONGRESS, MAY 19th TO 24th.

The Public Health Congress to be held in Brussels from May 19th to 24th, is to be a meeting of great importance. The King of the Belgians is patron, and the heroic Burgomaster of Brussels M. Max, with other prominent citizens are deeply interested in its programme.

The reception room will be at the Palais des Académies, near the Royal Palace, and will open on Monday, May 17th, at 10 a.m. The meetings will take place in the University of Brussels, Leopold Park. Receptions will be held by the King of the Belgians, the City of Brussels, the University of Brussels, and others, and excursions to Antwerp, Mons, Charleroi, Ghent, Louvain, and Liège are being arranged. Any person interested in the work of the congress may become a member on payment of a fee of £1 1s. to the hon. secretaries, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.

The programme is arranged under the following heading State Medicine, Naval, Military, Tropical and Colonial, Municipal Hygiene, Industrial Hygiene, Hygiene and Women's Work, Bacteriology and the Harben Lectures.

The following full programme of the Women's Work Section, omits as usual any inclusion of Trained Nursing, although the promoters in Belgium sent a courteous invitation to the Inter-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)