

There is no doubt that "mothers' helps" are of great value to district nurses, and at the annual general meeting of the Reigate and Redhill District Nursing Association Dr. Thornton laid great stress on their usefulness, and asked if it would be possible to organise a supply in connection with the Association. He said the Borough Welfare Department, he believed, had four, and they went to houses where there had been a confinement or illness, and undertook the care of the household. From the medical point of view, it seemed to him almost as important as nursing, and a register of these women or some organisation by means of which householders could be supplied in this way during periods of sickness would add to the usefulness of the Association.

Never was the value of domestic work appreciated as it is now. It makes all the difference to comfort and healthy surroundings. Much more should be done, by those benefitted, to give honourable status to those skilled in household management, and the good care of children.

From all over the country County Nursing Associations deplore the shortage of nurses. Their system of short training and using certified midwives as nurses under a three-years' contract no longer appeals to conscientious women who wish to qualify for the Nursing Profession. We hope the General Nursing Council's influence when its rules are in force will do much to substitute a system of thoroughly trained and registered nurses (paid as such) for the rural poor, for the present insufficiently trained so-called "nurse-midwife."

The coroner at Egham commended Nurse Norton and an ex-officer for their attempt to save the life of a patient—also an ex-officer—who jumped through a window of a nursing home. Together they gripped the one leg until he wrenched himself free, and fell head first on the stones below, and killed himself. The verdict on the poor fellow was "Suicide whilst temporarily insane." To judge from such reports, which are frequent, these sufferers, to whom we should be eternally grateful, have never recovered from the terrible strain of the war.

Captain Ganzio Garibaldi and Captain D. Palazzoi, on behalf of Italian soldiers, placed a wreath last Saturday on the Nurse Cavell memorial in the presence of a large crowd, including representatives of the Italian colony in London. Captain Garibaldi and others made speeches.

## THE NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The House of the National Union of Trained Nurses, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W., looked charming on Tuesday afternoon last when Lady Rhondda opened the new club.

The ceremony was preceded by a strawberry tea, during which the members were able to observe and appreciate the transformation of their Lecture Room into a delightful and commodious Club Room, where they can, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays excepted, obtain light refreshments and enjoy their leisure hours. There is also on the same floor a small but charmingly furnished bedroom, opening out of the reading room, where silence is assured, and a second bedroom on the floor above. Members can be accommodated for a visit of a week's duration at a charge of 30s. for bed and breakfast; for the week-end for 12s. 6d., or for a single night 5s. The atmosphere of the Club Room is most restful and harmonious. The floor is covered with a crimson carpet with a surround of plain blue linoleum; blue curtains shade the windows, and a restful couch and easy chairs, with small tables at hand invite relaxation.

The President, Miss Helen Pearse, with Miss M. Rimmer, Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss N. Farrant, Hon. Secretary, and members of the Executive Committee, received the members and guests, and shortly after 5.30 an adjournment was made to the garden. Here Miss Farrant presented Lady Rhondda with a lovely sheaf of carnations, and Miss Pearse, from the chair, welcomed her to the Club, and read telegrams from Miss Eden and Miss Marsters regretting their absence and wishing it good luck. After Miss Cancellor had given a brief résumé of the history of the National Union of Trained Nurses, Lady Rhondda, in a few words, declared the club open and said that she was enormously impressed by the fascinating old house in which it was located. She hoped the Club would be a great success.

## THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

We regret that owing to similarity of title, we ascribed the work as reported at its first annual meeting, of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, to the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases.

These two societies are both attempting to combat the ravages of Venereal Disease, but the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease strongly advocates the provision of means of immediate self-disinfection against venereal disease, to which the National Council is opposed; and is urging upon the Ministry of Health, and local authorities, to instruct chemists to sell such means of immediate self-disinfection as may be approved from time to time by the Ministry of Health, or Medical Officer of Health.

With this logical policy we confess ourselves in sympathy.

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