

The membership of the club has increased nearly 300 per cent. in three years. In 1916 there were 500 members; now there are 1,900, and nearly every state in the Union is represented. During the war, the club kept open house for all nurses passing through New York on their way to embark for duty on the other side, and many of these nurses, on their return, have shown their gratitude and desire to be connected with the organisation that had stood as a "big sister" to them during the past season of tribulation. The club is managed by a committee of thirty women, of whom fifteen are professional and fifteen non-professional. The non-professional members are selected by the Young Women's Christian Association. Each of the large New York hospitals is represented among the professional members.

The New York State Board of Nurse Examiners (Registration Board) and the central registry of the New York County Registered Nurses' Association have their offices in the building.

Nothing approaching the home has ever been given to the nursing profession. It has been an almost priceless boon to many nurses who without it would be compelled to live in dreary, uncongenial uncomfortable surroundings. "The club seems too good to be true," is the verdict of one and another who have experienced the hardships of life in other surroundings. To its non-resident members it is, at need, a "haven of rest." The club has furnished a model, also, for similar undertakings in other communities.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

Weekly National Insurance contributions are to be increased. Such is the proposal of the Government, who are revising payments and benefits.

A Bill to give effect to their proposals, says the Ministry of Health, is to be introduced into Parliament at the first opportunity. Here is the scheme:—

CONTRIBUTIONS.

to be increased by 3d (both sexes), 2d. of which is to fall on the employer and 1d. on the worker.

BENEFITS.

Sickness benefit to be increased to 15s. (men) and 12s. (women).

Disablement benefit 7s. 6d. a week for both men and women.

Maternity benefit to be increased from 30s. to £2.

Sanatorium benefit to be removed from the Acts, the treatment (other than domiciliary) of tuberculosis, both among the insured and the uninsured, being recognised as falling within the province of the local authorities.

A State system of medical referees is to be established, towards the cost of which the societies will make a small contribution by way of payment per case referred.

Thus employers of nurses will have to pay £1 1s. 8d. per head annually, the nurses themselves

paying 17s. 4d. This is very serious for the hospitals, the exchequers of which are already depleted to vanishing point.

Also private nurses working on the co-operative 7½ per cent. system—a percentage arranged before either the Employers' Liability Act, or the National Insurance Act were in force—must look forward to paying an increased percentage, or remaining out of insurance—as they are permitted to do—as their earnings at £3 3s. a week with board, lodging and washing are assessed at £250 per annum.

We have always encouraged nurses to insure, feeling the State would, by degrees, raise the sick benefit from time to time. This is now to be done, the sick benefit to be 12s. instead of 7s. 6d. a week, and by-and-by it will be more. But private nurses must realise that as the cost of insurance, clerical work, rent, rates, taxes, stamps, printing, light, heat, and labour have increased enormously the old rate of 7½ percentage cannot keep up a first-class private nursing co-operation in London, and insure the staff under both Acts. It cannot be done. The coming insurance rate is the last straw.

A SAD FATALITY.

With the head practically severed, the dead body of a young nurse, Miss Alice Lilian Warner, aged 24, employed at Lancashire County Asylum, Whittingham, has been found in the County Council branch railway track near Brabner Lane Bridge, Preston.

LEGAL MATTERS.

At Northampton Assizes, last week, before Mr. Justice Horridge, Emily Kathleen Church (23), a probationer nurse, pleaded "Guilty" to concealment of birth at Wellingborough.

Miss Tuke, matron at the Cottage Hospital at Wellingborough, said that Church had been at the hospital for two years, and had an extraordinarily good character.

His Lordship, in pronouncing judgment, said that his own inclination would be to release the prisoner on her own recognizances, but he had a duty to the State and to the position he occupied. It was not a case of a poor and friendless girl. Kindness was shown nowadays to unmarried mothers, and if the prisoner had told people of her trouble she could have enlisted their sympathy. Concealment of birth was a serious matter, especially in these days when, he was afraid, there were a great many illegitimate births. It was in the interests of the State that those births should be known. It might be that, had the prisoner sought assistance and had attention, the child might have been born a citizen of the State. Women must understand that they were pitied—and rightly pitied—when they were in the position that the prisoner was in, but that position was no justification for concealment of bringing a human being into the world. He could not pass the case without

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