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## EDITORIAL.

### THE HOME LIFE OF THE EXTERN NURSE.

The home life of Private and Public Health Nurses in large cities—especially in London—is one of the burning questions of the hour, and those interested in keeping up the standard both of education and morals, to say nothing of the happiness, of nurses engaged in these branches of nursing, cannot devote too much time to very careful consideration of it.

Woman is a homing creature, and no woman will long remain a good nurse who never enjoys a bit of home comfort and real privacy.

Before the war a nurse might, for 35s. a week, become a member of a real happy circle; now, we know that the rise of prices—in every item that goes to make a comfortable environment—is almost prohibitive. Service, in a most prohibitive degree—which our Dominion Sisters call “help”—is almost unprocurable, even at an exorbitant price, in places where work is somewhat hard, as it must be in a “hostel” where people are always coming and going. We once heard a “Help” remark: “I prefers a place where I can locate what master and missus is up to at all hours of the day.” In other words, this lady preferred systematic routine in her service relations. In a “Nurses’ Hostel,” such an one would have her preferences violated hour by hour.

The interests of all must be considered if in these expensive days we are to find a solution of the difficulty, and unless some better arrangements for the home life of extern nurses are secured, we fear the clever and desirable women, we wish to retain in these branches of work, will fail to supply the demand. What we really need is a Nurses’ Hostels Company, managed by business people, with trained Superintendents as

“mine hostess.” Some people will prefer to call these residences Nurses’ Clubs: the name is a detail, but such hostels must be sufficiently large to pay dividends and to support good sanitary arrangements and facilities for club life. “One woman one vote” should soon result in “one nurse one bedroom”; as it is, overcrowding and resulting lack of refinement go hand in hand.

But it is useless to imagine that such a company can be formed without large capital—and the question is where is it to come from? Are the nurses themselves prepared to put money into it? We fear not. Why? Well, because woman is not only a homing creature, but she prefers to have a member of the opposite sex help her make the home. Some heterodox persons even go so far as to argue that without a man about the place “it’s no home at all.” But we are wandering from the point. Many nurses have tried to run Nurses’ Hostels, and did so with some success before the rise in the cost of living; few have made them a financial success. Of late the standard of comfort has materially decreased, and every little item charged for as an extra is extremely irritating to the payee. It is a tangled question: please, wise people, put your heads together and straighten out this matter. If we have no highly trained private and public nurses, rich and poor are going to have a bad time.

### RANK FOR NURSES.

Secretary Baker has announced the appointment of Miss Julia L. Stimson, of New York City, as Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, with the rank of Major. Miss Stimson served with the Army in France from May, 1917, to the end of the war. She was at first Chief Nurse of the St. Louis Red Cross Unit, and then Director of the American Army Nurse Corps in France.

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