

The matron replied that unless the committee agreed to make some substantial increase they would never be able to get the hospital adequately staffed.

It was decided to accept the matron's suggestion and revise the rates of pay.

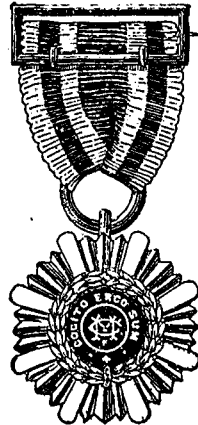
The Lewisham Guardians have decided not to build a new nurses home, estimated to cost £56,000, but to connect certain portions of the south side of the Hospital into a permanent Nurses' Home at an approximate cost of £16,000.

Miss Breay writes in the train: "Just off to Soissons, where I am going to stay with the 'Cards'—otherwise, the Comité Americaine Régions Devastées. I shall break the journey at Laon. Mrs. Brackenbridge, who kindly said she had heard of me, said I was not going to escape her by staying at an hotel, and I was to come and stay with them [most kind, delighted!]. She has ten of Dr. Hamilton's fine nurses working with her round about Paris, Monday: I have had a most delightful time here (Rheims). This unit is now dissolving—a thousand pities. Miss Sainsbury and Miss Wood, late F.F.N.C., have offered services free to Rheims for the winter if they can be housed and fed." We hope their generous offer will be accepted. France could do with hundreds of such helpers.

The members of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association have recently voted to raise the fees of obstetric nurses from £3 3s. to £4 4s. a week, the nurses to be responsible for their own laundry expenses. The fee of the visiting nurse is £3 3s. for ten days, and nurses undertaking work of this kind are advised that they should pay a morning and evening visit for the first three days. A nurse to have eight hours rest and two hours at least daily for exercise, when patient can be conveniently left. These charges do not appear excessive as expenses go now-a-days.

It is reported by *Una*, we regret to observe, that Sister Bessie (as the hospitals knew Mrs. Bessie Simpson, who was a personal friend of Miss Florence Nightingale) died at her residence in Sydney at the age of eighty-three. Fifty-one years ago she arrived with five other nurses from St. Thomas's Hospital, London, to institute the first training school in Sydney. After serving many years at the Sydney Hospital, she became Matron of Gladesville Hospital, retiring at the age of sixty-five. Two children survive her.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



By the courtesy of Miss Winnill, the Matron, the quarterly meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, on September 18th. Surrey is a beautiful county, and the drive in the motor vehicles belonging to the hospital, and graciously placed at the disposal of the guests, to convey them from and to the station—a distance of about two-and-a-half miles—perfectly justifies the reputation of the county.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

Considering the inclemency of the weather, and other hindering causes, the attendance was good. Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., President, presided. Before the proceedings commenced, Miss Winnill presented the President and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick with bouquets of the most exquisite chrysanthemums, which gave very great pleasure.

A considerable amount of correspondence was dealt with, including letters of regret for non-attendance from members. As our members are scattered far and wide over the country and beyond it, and as railway travelling is now very expensive, it is quite impossible for those at a distance to attend often.

There were several applicants for membership, all of whom were elected.

Miss Lord, Matron of Banstead Asylum, is a very regular attendant at these meetings. Her vacant seat on this occasion was therefore conspicuous, owing to a serious illness, and from which—she explained by letter—she had scarcely recovered. It was proposed by Mrs. Fenwick, and agreed, that a letter should be sent to Miss Lord from the Council, expressing sympathy, and thanking her for all past services.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the National Council of Women stating that the annual meeting of the Council would take place at Clifton, Bristol, October 12th and 13th, and asking the Matrons' Council to appoint representatives. Miss Marsters, Miss Catherine Terry, and Miss M. C. Kennedy were consequently appointed. The Hon. Secretary also laid before the President a "Preliminary Agenda" of the meeting, comprising a large number of resolutions, dealing with a variety of very important subjects, and on some of which the Executive Committee has taken action during the year. We append some of the most important:—Illegitimate Children, Widows' Pensions, Women in Civil Service, Adoption of Children, Guardianship of Infants, Criminal Assaults on Children, Regulated Prostitution,

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