

enclosed with glass, and bright, no doubt, with flowers and shrubs. Now there is not a pane of glass on the premises. Oiled paper takes its place, and the same useful material mends holes in the roof. The pharmacy is, in parts, open to the sky, but it is arranged, with the skill which district nurses know so well how to exercise, though the staircase to what was the floor above, hangs in fragments which the daring mount at their peril.

THE UNIT.

The Unit, at the time of my visit, consisted of Miss Cecily C. du Sautoy (Superintendent), three nurses—Lady Hermione Blackwood, and two former members of the French Flag Nursing

and may not arrive in morning, and one young maid. You will realize then that the office of House-Member is no sinecure. True, each member of the Unit makes her own bed and keeps her room in order, and the regularity of institution life is a help. But it is certainly an achievement, when the cook does not appear, that all the meals come up as usual, so that no one is aware of the fact, and, serene and smiling, the invaluable House-Member, who has acted as substitute, takes her place at the table as usual.

I began to make the acquaintance of the Unit before I entered the house, for, on my arrival in the afternoon, all three cars were in the courtyard and, lying under the bonnet of the biggest car, in



Mlle. Combaz. Miss T. Edsell. Miss Macdonald. Miss I. Edsell.
Miss F. A. N. Wood. Miss Cunningham. Miss C. C. du Sautoy. The Lady Hermione Blackwood.
Miss Burns. Hiddy. Miss Dorothy Sainsbury.

THE UNIT.

Corps, Miss F. A. N. Wood, and Miss Dorothy Sainsbury; one aide, Mlle. Combaz; three drivers Miss Theo Edsell, Miss Macdonald, and Miss Burns; a storekeeper, Miss Ivy Edsell, in charge of all the stores, given out on certain mornings of the week to those who have previously received tickets. Her office is no sinecure, for an inventory is kept of all the stores and a card index of all the recipients, and of what has been given them. Last but not least is the House-Member, Miss Cunningham, the pivot, after Miss du Sautoy, of the whole establishment.

What are the duties of the House-Member? Well, just consider what is involved in running a great rambling house, catering for and feeding an average of 14 people, with a cook who lives out

the blackest of overalls, was the smallest driver, doing some "running repairs" to her beloved car. Till I knew the Unit I never realized how these drivers love their cars. Later, I enquired of someone the name of the car in question, and was told, "It is usually 'The Elephant,' but if you want a sure way to Miss Burns' heart you will call it 'Lizzie.'" So "Lizzie" it was, and I verily believe she would rather spend her time with "Lizzie" than with anything human you could mention. It must have been an agonizing moment when the work of the British Committee, C.R.F., came to an end, and she had to deliver Lizzie over to the authorities at Rouen.

I wonder whether in cold print I can convey any idea of the value of the Unit system, not only

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)