

chairman respectively, and Lord Athlone and Colonel F. W. Pixley hon. treasurers. Lady March, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, the Hon. Clarence Bruce, and Mr. D. F. Pennant were elected hon. secretaries. The report presented by the executive committee showed steady progress in all branches of the Institute's work; the chief anxiety being the raising of the necessary funds. The sum of £12,000 is required to meet the deficit on these estimates for this year.

Much of this sum will doubtless be contributed now that a scale of payments per visit is to be required from better-class patients. How this innovation will affect subscriptions remains to be seen.

At a recent meeting of the Committee of the Imperial Nurses' Club, the Report for the year 1920 was presented, and the figures contained in it testify to the steady popularity of this Club. The total number of beds used during the year amounted to 8,665, and the number of meals to 19,557; both these figures show an increase on the previous year, as does also the roll of membership, which now reckons well over 600.

The original purpose of the Club is adhered to, viz., to provide natural and home-like quarters for members of the Profession when a short visit to town has to be paid (either for business or pleasure), or when a night off from hospital gives an opportunity for a theatre, &c.; or again, when somewhere is needed for a quiet meal or a chat with a friend. Besides fulfilling this purpose, however, the Club is being largely used by Nurses doing private work; they find it restful and strengthening to be in something like a real home between their cases, and the limiting of each visit to seven nights seems to prove no obstacle to their becoming members.

With reference to the recent remarks in *Truth* on the inadequacy of the pay of the nurses of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., it is pointed out to its Editor "that the newly enlisted eighteen-year-old recruit in the R.A.M.C. receives 23s. a week, which is practically the same pay as that given to the trained and educated woman who joins as a staff nurse, and has to train such recruits as orderlies. No wonder the disparity in the pay rankles in their minds! But pay is not their only grievance. Pensions are graded on just as beggarly a basis in the new scale. Three pounds is the allowance for each year's service. The age of admission is from 25 to 35, and as members are compulsorily retired at 55, and as there are only 24 matrons on the establishment, the most that the majority of

these ladies can expect is a pension of £60 a year. These conditions are not likely to make the Q.A.I.M.N.S. attractive."

The Matrons of the Metropolitan Children's Hospitals have consulted, and recommended a scale of salaries, and although advances have been made, they do not yet come up to what the matrons recommend. At the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, the new scale (as follows) comes into operation this week:—

Assistant Matron—at present, £90, to be £100 to £140; Home Sister—at present, £75, to be £85 to £125; Night Sister—at present, £70, to be £85 to £125; Ward Sister—at present, £60 to £70, to be £80 to £125; Staff Nurses—at present, £50, to be £50 to £60. This is a very good advance in these very hard times for hospitals.

A largely attended meeting of the East Midlands branch of the British Hospitals Association was held at the General Hospital, Nottingham. Mr. Frederick Acton, C.B.E. chairman of the General Hospital, Nottingham, was elected chairman. A long discussion took place on the subject of the scale of salaries for the nursing staffs of voluntary hospitals, as suggested by the College of Nursing, Ltd. It was resolved that further consideration of the matter be postponed until a future meeting.

In the course of the discussion Mr. Acton strongly advocated the adoption of a national scheme of superannuation for nurses.

At a meeting of the Board of Management of the General Hospital, Nottingham, held on Wednesday, February 16th, the recommendation of the College of Nursing as to minimum salaries was adopted, the scale for Probationers as from March 1st, being as follows:—

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|----------------------------|-----|
| 1st year Probationers, ... | £18 |
| 2nd " " ...                | 22  |
| 3rd " " ...                | 30  |
| 4th " " ...                | 40  |

The salaries of the other members of the Nursing Staff were also increased to the minimum suggested.

We consider a salary of £40 is quite inadequate for the fourth year of Service. The training period should cover three years, after which a certificated Staff Nurse should receive £60 as a minimum salary, and Sisters of Wards—a most responsible position—£100.

Nursing Associations are urging Approved Insurance Societies to adopt nursing as an

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