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EDITORIAL.

THE PURPOSES OF PROFESSIONAL CLUBS.

In another column we report the opening ceremony of the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, by its President, H.R.H. the Princess Christian, and it is useful to consider briefly the purposes for which such Clubs are established.

First, then, nurses with community of thought, sympathy and purpose can conveniently meet there and discuss matters of mutual interest and importance. They are also centres for the interchange of social amenities, and further, they are centres from which information important to nurses can be disseminated, whether at more formal lectures or informal meetings, friendly debates and discussions, or conversations between individuals. All of us who have the "Club habit" know the value and pleasure of such intercourse.

Again, a Residential Club affords a Headquarters to which private nurses can return, as to a real home, between their cases, and this is a side of Club life which many nurses will keenly appreciate. To School Nurses, Queen's Nurses and others it affords a convenient centre where they can relax in their off-duty time. To nurses in the country, membership of a London Club means that they can visit the Metropolis under comfortable and pleasurable conditions difficult to attain on the means at their command in any other way. Especially is this the case with the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. The locality is charming, the house spacious, well furnished, and consequently restful, the food well cooked and served, the atmosphere generated from the office of the Secretary and from the Department of the Home Sister—friendly, efficient and serviceable.

Here, too, we may hope to meet from time to time distinguished nurses from our Overseas Dominions and from foreign countries, whose books we have read, whom we know through their contributions to the professional press, and whom we keenly desire to know personally. It is certain that in days to come they will gravitate to the Royal British Nurses' Association Club in Queen's Gate, and it will be one of the great pleasures and benefits of our Club that through it we shall come into personal contact with distinguished members of our profession whom for many years we have admired and revered.

Another point which needs no emphasis to nurses with hospitable instincts is that in Club life they are able to exercise those instincts. We are not of those who desire to see the "living-in" system for hospital nurses abolished. We believe they have more comfort and less strain by that method than in any other way, in regard to their professional life. But the drawback of institutional life is its rigidity. It is quite impossible, for instance, that members of a nursing staff should invite their friends to drop in to tea or other meals. General disorganisation would be the result.

It is here that their Club befriends them. When off duty they can invite whoever they will to meet them, and entertain them at any of the Club meals. This will be a real and much appreciated boon to many nurses. But beyond this the influence of our Clubs, as of all individual members, should be exercised for the benefit of the profession at large. Who knows, for instance, how the whole outlook of a young nurse may be changed by contact, in the social life of a Club, with members of her profession whom she learns to revere, and whose ideals she assimilates and makes her own?

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