

cost will be £2 a week for those sharing a room, and £2 7s. for a single bedroom. Those coming for less than a week will be charged at the rate of 6s. a day if sharing a room, or 7s. a day for a single bedroom.

Sandsend is on the Great Northern Railway. Owing to present conditions of travelling luggage should be as small as possible.

The Registration fee (which will go towards the expenses of Camp) is 1s. if paid before June 1st, and after that date 1s. 6d.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary of the League, Miss Richardson, 135, Ebury Street, London, S.W. 1, or from the Camp Secretary, Miss J. Macfee, 21, Froggnal Lane, Hampstead, London, N.W. 3.

NURSES AND TRADE UNIONISM.

We are informed that at a recent meeting of the Swansea Workhouse Visiting Committee a letter was read from Miss M. B. Williams, the superintendent nurse, stating that she had accepted the post of Secretary to the Swansea Centre of the College of Nursing. The work would be done in her own spare time, she added, but she informed the committee out of courtesy.

A number of members objected to Miss Williams accepting the office, one ground being that the College was really a trade union.

Mrs. H. D. Williams did not think Nurse Williams would be able to discharge the duties in her own spare time.

Mr. Dewitt thought it would be impossible for her to act fairly in the dual capacity of Secretary to the Centre and the "boss" of the nurses for the Guardians. Extra time would also be asked for later on in which to do the work.

Mr. W. G. Rees said Miss Williams would have from time to time to put forward the claims of nurses for increases, and he did not think an official of trade unionism ought to sit at committees.

It was urged by Mr. James, however, that the committee should let the matter drop and allow Miss Williams to do as she wished. Nurses, he added, had advanced from Trade Unionism to industrialism, and did not mind their "gaffers," as he put it, acting as their secretaries.

The committee took the last speaker's advice, and the subject was allowed to drop without any decision being taken on it.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., cannot be described as a nurses' trade union; practically it is the employers' union, as the seven signatories to the Memorandum of the company are laymen, and of the five executive officers only one is a nurse. When Matrons and superintendents of nurses accept the position of secretary to branches and centres of nurses' organisations, it is inevitable that the freedom of the nursing staff is curtailed

by the influence of the senior officer. Thousands of nurses have been influenced and some compelled to join the College by their Matrons. Thus, it is much more just that official positions should be held by nurses out of office, and not by Matrons and Superintendents. We ask the Swansea Guardians is it giving their nursing staff freedom of choice as to what organisations they shall join if their superintendent nurse is the active organiser of any one society—whether of the College or a trade union? No head official in office in an institution should hold dual authority. It is not fair to the juniors, whose promotion depends so much on the head nursing officials.

INNOCENT VICTIMS.

Lord Dewar, as President, in an appeal for funds for St. Paul's Hospital, which has been selected by the Ministry of Health as a centre for the free secret treatment of venereal diseases, says:—

"It is tragic to see the sufferers—men, women, and even little children—innocent little mites knowing not from what they suffer or why they should. It is thought by many that venereal disease is a sign of guilt, but large numbers of our patients are innocent victims.

"It was found impossible to do justice to the ever-increasing work in the present hospital at Red Lion Square and the committee has obtained larger accommodation in Endell Street, where 28 beds for in-patients and accommodation capable of dealing with 100,000 visits of out-patients per annum will be provided. It will cost £50,000 to complete, purchase, rebuild, and equip the new hospital."

THE PROTECTION OF X-RAY WORKERS.

Representatives of the radiological societies met in London last week to form an expert committee to investigate the use of X-rays, especially with a view to improving the measures of protection for patient and operator.

The meeting was summoned by the Röntgen Society, of which Dr. Robert Knox is President, and the objects of the investigation which it proposes to set going will be to report on:—

(1) The changes induced in tissues by X-rays, and particularly on the blood changes.

(2) The properties of the X-rays and the best means of controlling their action.

(3) The equipment of X-ray and electrical departments with a special view to the protective measures employed.

(4) Recommendations for the guidance of the assistants in those departments, particularly in relation to the hours of work and the need for fresh air and change.

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