

bureau conducted by a nurse-supervisor, is the ideal, and if on the telephone, need not be in the very heart of the West End.

We have heard of late much of the demand for Nurses' Clubs. Personally, we have never been impressed with the great demand for them; that is to say as social centres in large cities, where, when a nurse is off duty, there are so many places of call, where she can get food and meet friends. A nurse off duty wants fresh air, amusement, change of scene and thought—and a Nurses' Club is not the best place to secure them. But Nurses' Residential Hotels or Hostels are most urgently needed—and of course club rooms should be included—for reading, writing, &c. We do hope to hear of such Hostels being founded, which, if well managed, should be self-supporting. Private Nurses and private nursing will surely deteriorate unless living conditions improve.

We wondered, when we heard that Lord and Lady Cowdray had given the College of Nursing No. 20, Cavendish Square for a Nurses' Club, who was going to keep this magnificent mansion going; the cost, of course, must have run into many thousands annually. Only a very limited number of nurses have either the time or money for such a purpose. Now it would appear this fact has, somewhat late in the day, been realised by the millionaires, who really know nothing of the economic conditions of nursing—and so far as nurses are concerned they are naturally unable to avail themselves of the splendid environment of a Cavendish Square Club. College quarters are, we hear, to be erected on the vacant site behind No. 20, but whatever is done, the upkeep will be considerable, and this the members must keep in mind—organisation costs money.

We hear from many localities that without further training since the war, many V.A.D.'s are now engaged in private nursing—countenanced by medical practitioners. Of course we knew many V.A.D.'s. would take this short cut to earning a living. It is reported they usually charge a lower fee—30s. to £2 2s. a week—than a trained nurse, but they call themselves "trained," assume full uniform, and are thus duping the public. We are of opinion that the Central Joint V.A.D. Committee of the Red Cross and St. John, which is responsible for the discipline of these women, should take steps to prevent their unfair competition with trained workers. Medical practitioners are

also to blame in the same connection. Only last week a highly qualified member of the Registered Nurses' Society was relieved by a V.A.D., and this where very skilled nursing was most necessary for the care and cure of the patient. We shall be obliged if our readers will forward to us evidence of this danger to the sick. No wonder our hospitals are short of probationers. The young woman of the present day is not going to study nursing for three or four years to make herself efficient, if she can secure medical patronage and pick up £2 2s. a week after a few weeks' study as a V.A.D.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley is Chairman both of the Central Joint V.A.D. Committee and of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and in the interest of the trained members of the College we hope he will prevent V.A.D.'s posing as, and undertaking the duties of, trained private nurses.

The new scale of pay for Army nurses, says *Truth*, does not show the authorities who compiled it in a very chivalrous light. The pre-war commencing salary was £40 a year. It is now £60, rising by two increments of £2 10s. to £65, where it may remain for thirteen years, unless the nurse is promoted to the rank of sister, when the pay would be £75, rising to £85. A living wage is not, in fact, reached unless the post of matron is attained, for which the pay is £115, rising to £185. But the posts of matron are few, and the rank of sister is the highest that the majority may ever hope to attain. This is a mean and contemptible way of treating women who are debarred by the rules of the service from protesting, and it is little likely to attract capable recruits to the service.

These salaries compare badly with those recommended by the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Fever Nurses' Association, and the Professional Union of Trained Nurses. Let us hope when a new Secretary of State for War is appointed the scale will be revised. "Winsie" has apparently little sympathy with the Nurses under his control. His Army Council sent us a "sniffy" reply to the resolution inviting him to consider the granting of "Rank" to Army Nurses. Rank, of course, would carry with it decent salaries. We fear this will not appeal to Cabinet Ministers who are busy raising their own, which nurses are taxed to pay.

Nurses who are trying to conduct Nursing Homes and Hostels will rejoice to hear that the

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