

physicians and patients may object to releasing the nurse. Fortunately, this is rarely the case, for they too recognise the obligations resting upon the enrolled Red Cross nurses and are usually willing to release them. All these delicate adjustments, however, must be made. After the unit is ordered into service the question of uniforms, supplies, railroad transportation, etc., must be looked after. The chapters frequently assist the committees in this particular. Many times they underwrite the cost, advance the money for railroad tickets and buy them, reimbursement later being made from the national fund. While it is not required that the nurses give their services many do. This is not necessary, however, as a special fund is available for administrative expenses. Therefore, a salary allowance of \$5.00 per day, with transportation to and within the area, as well as maintenance is provided. The committees in addition to securing the actual number of nurses needed must select those who are in good health and who can remain if they are required for an indefinite period. The character of the disaster usually determines the type of nurse required. Tornados, generally leaving many injuries, require nurses with experience in surgical work. Floods, indicating epidemic, may require nurses with some public health nursing. Consequently the task of the committee is further complicated by the necessity for considering the special qualifications of the nurses for the particular occasion. The fact that she is enrolled, however, is a guarantee of her eligibility as far as character and general professional training is concerned. The National Director at such a time not only must keep her "ear to the ground" and supply the needs in the disaster field, but the situation is usually complicated for her by the deluge of requests that come from enrolled Red Cross nurses and others from all parts of the United States offering their services. This spontaneous response to the needs of the Red Cross is a wonderful exhibition of the hold that it has upon the individual nurse. The desk of the National Director immediately following the Florida disaster bore a strong resemblance to that of the busy days of the World War. Hundreds of telegrams, and letters, poured in from all parts of the country while the telephone also did its share. The almost constant demand upon the American Red Cross for nurses for this type of work alone, not to mention its other nursing activities, makes one more appreciative than ever of the nurse leaders who laid before the American Red Cross the importance of utilising the national society of nurses as the standard making body, thus placing upon the nurses of the country, themselves, the responsibility of maintaining high standards originally recommended. We recall with gratitude the wisdom and vision of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross who accepted the overtures of the nurses and adopted their plan of organisation. That a Nursing Service composed of over 43,000 graduate nurses stands ready to respond to the call of the Red Cross in any national emergency, as well as for service in its more constructive peace programme, is the result of this co-operative effort.

CLARA D. NOYES,

*Chairman National Committee on American
Red Cross Nursing Service, and National
Director.*

At the Red Cross Conference at Berne, which has just ended, the creation of a new body on which both the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies would be represented was proposed. The Conference set up rules regulating the relations between the new body and the two Red Cross organisations.

UNITED NURSING SERVICES CLUB.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

Miss B. M. Miller, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided at a Meeting of Shareholders, Members and Friends, held at the United Nursing Services Club at 34, Cavendish Square, W., on Wednesday November 24th, at 3 p.m. She stated that the Report for the year, just presented to a Meeting of the Shareholders was most satisfactory, and one very important point in connection with it was the fact that the loss made on the first year's running of the Club had now been completely made good. It was usual for a Club to have a debt during the first year and it was very gratifying to find this loss made good so quickly. Miss Miller said that she considered the Club to be unique, she had had experience of many Clubs and she was acquainted with none which had such a home-like atmosphere as this one. Miss Miller then called upon Brigadier-General R. H. More, C.M.G., C.B.E., a Member of the Board of Directors, to address the Meeting, saying that she hoped the audience would cast a loving and grateful eye upon him as it was largely due to him that they had received a grant of £15,000 from the United Services Fund to establish the Club, and she hoped that it might still prove sympathetic in helping them to meet the pressing need for finding a means for providing more bedroom accommodation.

General More, referring to the initial grant made to the Club by the United Services Fund, said that this Fund had made grants to various Clubs with the idea of helping people to help themselves in the matter of securing suitable provision in the way of Clubs. The resources of the Fund were not unlimited, however, and he warned the Members that, supposing they wished to buy up the rest of the Square, for instance, he feared the Fund would not be able to meet such a demand, however great the need for more accommodation. (Laughter.)

The Report which had just been presented at the Shareholders' Meeting showed a marked advance and that the Club was doing well. General More knew of no Club of the same size that could show a better balance-sheet, and this he attributed very largely to the Secretary. The Secretary of a Club required a variety of qualities rarely found in one individual, and Miss Steele did combine in herself that variety of qualities which went to the making of a really good Club Secretary. She was, said the speaker, an ideal Secretary and the Directors greatly appreciated her extremely valuable work. General More urged each Member to try to get one new member each year. This year there had been an increase in the membership, but he hoped to see a still greater increase next year.

Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and paid a tribute to Miss Miller's valuable work for the Club. This was seconded by Miss Goodwin who also spoke in high terms of Miss Miller's able chairmanship, and many activities, in making the Club so acceptable to its Members.

After the Meeting there was delightful afternoon tea in the drawing-room with its well-chosen pictures and tasteful furniture, for the whole appearance of the Club bespeaks good taste; and the ready courtesy shown to visitors by those responsible for its administration, must be no small factor in securing the increase in its membership referred to by one of the speakers.

The very satisfactory Balance Sheet presented to the Shareholders showed that the year's working again resulted in a profit, the excess of income over expenditure for the year being £180 18s. 1d.

We notice that amongst the Directors of the Club are Dame Ethel Becher, C.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Elizabeth Oram, D.B.E., R.R.C., Miss A. M. Bushby, and Miss S. J. Cockrell, R.R.C.

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