

an endowment fund for their maintenance and upkeep, to be held in perpetuity as a home for retired members of the nursing staff. The report stated that the gift was already being put, in part, by Dr. Essex Wynter, to its ultimate use. Two of the northern group of cottages had been reconstructed to form delightful little homes, each self-contained and most admirably furnished and fitted, and these now house two retired nurses.

The thoughtfulness, generosity and kindness of this gift will be appreciated by all nurses, while, to the members of the Nursing Staff of the Middlesex Hospital, it holds an alluring prospect of an old age spent in ease and comfort instead of under the restricted and anxious conditions under which too many nurses spend their lives when they have retired from active work.

The Birthday Festivities held last week at the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, London, S.W., seemed, in spite of the weather, to possess an exceptional amount of vitality and enthusiasm this year. The fact that the Hon. Lady Lyttelton, who was to have opened the "American Tea" the first day, was unable to do so on account of mourning, was the one disappointment; happily, another of the Club's Vice-Presidents, Lady Codrington, was able to take her place. A quick exchange of goods, according to this "give and take" form of sale, went on all the afternoon. The opener on the second day was Mrs. A. Lloyd Sturge; and in addition to music and singing on this afternoon a group of children entertained the company by fascinating and original dances. The "Birthday Tea" on Sunday was preceded by a "Travel Talk," given by Miss Mayers (the Hon. Secretary of the Club), who had had the privilege and inspiration of a holiday spent in Palestine in the early part of the year. It is satisfactory to record that sufficient money (about £35) was made by the "American Tea," to make the special purchases needed at the moment. (The sewing machine has already been bought.)

The Club has been largely used during the year by Nurses (a) who have come to England from overseas to visit the Mother Country; (b) who had to come to London to consult a doctor; (c) who came to sit for some examination; (d) who wanted to attend a special course of lectures; as well as by large numbers who came to stay at the Club between cases, or for a genuine holiday.

The number of beds made up for all these was 8,761 during the past twelve months, and 17,168 meals were served during that time; 3,541 letters were received and 2,980 sent out. The number of members varies very little; it is generally about 400, and that is its total now.

A revision course for health visitors qualified under para. 6 of the Memorandum 101/M.C.W. of the Ministry of Health, *i.e.*, who have given satisfactory service as wholetime health visitors for not less than five years and who are desirous of obtaining the new health visitor's certificate, will be held in Leeds, under the Department of Public Health, in connection with the University of Leeds, at the beginning of February, 1928, providing a sufficient number of health visitors indicate their intention of joining.

*Note.*—Women who have given not less than five years' satisfactory service as whole-time officers of a local authority and have been engaged as school nurses, tuberculosis nurses, etc., may, provided a material part of their time has been devoted to health visiting, and with the consent of the Minister of Health in each individual case, be admitted to the examination. Admission to the revision course is open to such candidates, but they are advised to obtain the consent of the Minister of Health to their taking the examination prior to entering for the course.

The course will extend over a period of four months, and will cover all the subjects mentioned in the memorandum of the Ministry of Health. The classes will be held in the evening at the Leeds General Infirmary at hours arranged to suit the convenience of health visitors residing outside the city.

The fee for the course has been provisionally fixed at £5.

Intending students will be required to fill up a form giving particulars of their qualifications and experience, which must be forwarded to Professor J. Johnstone Jervis, Public Health Department, 12, Market Buildings, Leeds, from whom further particulars and forms of application can be obtained.

The schools of midwifery in the British Isles are renowned not only throughout the British Empire but throughout the world, and it is greatly to the credit of the members of the nursing profession in this country that many of their number have been keenly alive to the advantage of adding a knowledge of midwifery to their qualifications, and have worked hard, and paid highly, to obtain the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, often with little encouragement from their superior officers, while the midwifery authorities have also looked somewhat coldly upon them if they do not devote themselves entirely to the practice of midwifery when once they have gained this certificate, though there seems to be no reason why trained nurses, any more than medical practitioners, should specialise exclusively in midwifery. However that may be, it is certain that there are many nurses in this country with a sound, and in some instances a very expert, knowledge of the practice of midwifery who are desirous of using it for the benefit of humanity.

To those who have the enterprise to break new trails, we can imagine no more delightful field of work than that offered by the Kentucky Committee for Mothers and Babies to Public Health Nurses holding the certificate in midwifery of the English, Scotch, or Irish Central Midwives Board.

For particulars of these appointments application should be made, in the first instance, to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, The British College of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, who is acting for the Director, Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Leslie County, Kentucky, in this connection.

There is the dual pleasure of helping to introduce into a country where the practice of midwifery, outside that by the medical profession, is mainly in the hands of illiterate and ignorant persons, a midwifery service by trained nurses such as is carried on in the British

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