

CLUB DES INFIRMIÈRES.

SOUS LE HAUT PATRONAGE DE S.M. LA REINE,
18, RUE DE LA SOURCE, BRUSSELS.

On Sunday, July 16th, 1933, the Directors of the International Council of Nurses, and a few ladies, were invited by Mademoiselle Hellemans to visit the Nurses' Club in Brussels, where she entertained them with charming hospitality. Luncheon was served in the Club dining-room, where the excellent menu and champagne were duly appreciated, and a very happy atmosphere was created. After lunch the guests rested in the inner lounge, a very pleasant room with windows on each side looking into the shady garden, and furnished with easy chairs, sofa and every comfort. Coffee was handed round, and after a very pleasant talk we were taken round the Club. We first went into the basement and visited the kitchen, which was a model of neatness and cleanliness though about 50 lunches had just been served. Store rooms, vegetable stores with excellent tiled bins for different kinds of vegetables, and fruit; separate store for potatoes, which were kept in large wooden bins. The potatoes were shot into the bins from outside. Large larder for bread, cakes, pastries, etc. Two rooms were provided in the basement for nurses to wash and iron their clothes, if they so desired. We were taken up by the lift to see the bedrooms, which are nice and airy, and well arranged for the nurses' comfort; each room has a basin and hot

and cold running water. The charges for the rooms are according to the floor they are situated on: 1st floor, 5 fr. 50 per day; 2nd floor, 5 fr.; 3rd floor, 4 fr.; 4th floor, 3 fr. per day.

And arrangement is made for the Club members to pay 20 fr. a month for electric light and heating.

Members make their own beds and keep basins clean. A housemaid thoroughly cleans the bedroom once a week. Baths have to be paid for (2 fr.), and for that a good bath and shower bath are provided.

Every one at 12 noon and at night receives a tray with meat, vegetables, potatoes, and dessert, the price is 5 fr. 50, which is about 1s. For friends extra is charged (7 fr.). Breakfast at 9 a.m. or earlier. Coffee, tea, milk or chocolate, with bread or toast (2 fr. 25). I was told nurses could live for £5 a month at the Club.

After the tour of inspection, the Board of Directors, with their newly appointed President, Miss Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., in the Chair, held a long Committee, and finished all the outstanding business of the Board of Directors, except for a small sub-Committee, which took

place on Monday morning at the Hotel Gallia and Britannique, in Brussels; so ended the business of the International Council of Nurses, Paris-Brussels, 1933.

La Famille de l'Infirmière Association Sans But Lucratif.

The Club also sends out Private Nurses, the charge is about £2 2s. per week; extra charge is made for night duty. Nurses are also sent out for the day or night, also by the hour, for special dressings, etc.: 15 fr. for first hour; 7 fr. 50 after first hour. There was a great demand for nurses last year, as well as this year, for private nurses, and it was thought to be increasing.

The Club was started at Havre during the War (1918) by Mme. Paul Hymans, with the aid of the American Red Cross, for nurses attending the sick and wounded soldiers.

After the Armistice the Club was moved to 57, Boulevard de Waterloo, Brussels, and was able to receive 25 nurses, but it was soon found not to be large enough. The new Club was opened on November 29th, 1923, Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians being present. The Club can house 70 nurses. There is a Committee of Management of 12 Ladies, Secretary and Directrices.

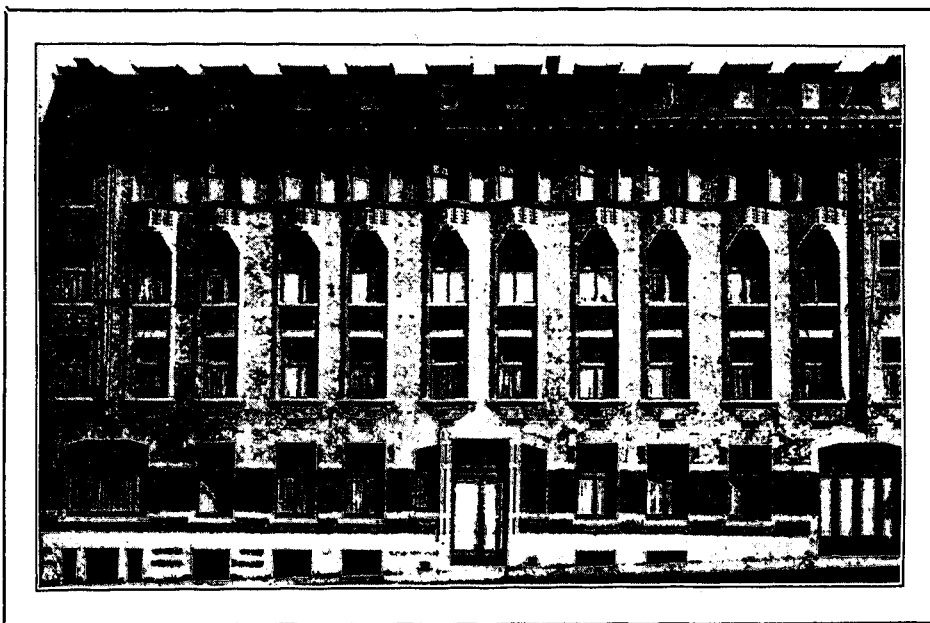
Home for Aged Nurses.

I was fortunate in being taken to see the Home for Aged Nurses which has just been fitted up, but not yet opened—which they hoped to do in a very short time. The house was bought at the same time as the land for the Club; but it is under different management. It is an adapted house. Each nurse will have

a separate room fitted with basin with running water. She will have to furnish her own room; the whole house has central heating, so no fires are required. A kitchen is provided where the nurses cook their food, also bathrooms. There is to be a Commissioner and his wife, who will live in the basement. There will be no Superintendent. The garden of the Home abuts on the garden of the Club, and if the nurses wish they can get their principal meal at the Club. It is wonderful to think what has been done in Belgium since the War.

A contributory scheme for pensions on much the same basis as are now provided in our voluntary hospitals has been instituted at the Club for Nurses and at the private nursing institution and Home for Nurses who are past work. One is moved with the thought of how much the Belgian nation has accomplished for the progress of nursing and the benefit of nurses in the last few years. Their leaders have shown surprising energy in initiating progress on sound educational and humane lines, and their international colleagues rejoice to realise their success.

A. M. B.



Club des Infirmières, Brussels, Facade Principale, 18, Rue de la Source.

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