

## CASA DI RIPOSO, FIESOLE.

We are indebted to Madame Margherita de Bellegarde, the President of the beautiful Rest Home for Nurses recently opened at Florence, for the photograph here reproduced, from which we can realise how satisfactorily the long-cherished project to commemorate their sisters who fell in active service during the War has been attained by the acquisition of the Villa Belvedere, which beautiful Home may be visited by English Nurses.

Those of us who attended the Tuberculosis Congress in Rome in 1928, and were the guests of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, at the Policlinico Hospital, retain memories of courtesy, kindness, and understanding, not only

appointed Home. It is situated just below Fiesole, the grounds being laid out in terraces and shady pergolas, which face, as do all the windows of the living rooms, the wonderful panorama of the Valley of the Arno with the city of Florence in the centre. The encircling Apennines form the background of this loveliest of views, with its ever-varying charm from the flush of dawn to the deepest tints of sunset.

Over the front door is the inscription "Casa di riposo per le infermiere della Croce Rossa. In memoria delle infermiere morte in guerre—1930 A XI." The names of the thirty-three Voluntary Red Cross nurses who laid down their lives while on active service in the War are engraved in gold letters on either side of the altar in the tiny chapel, while friends and relatives have dedicated special rooms to three of the number.

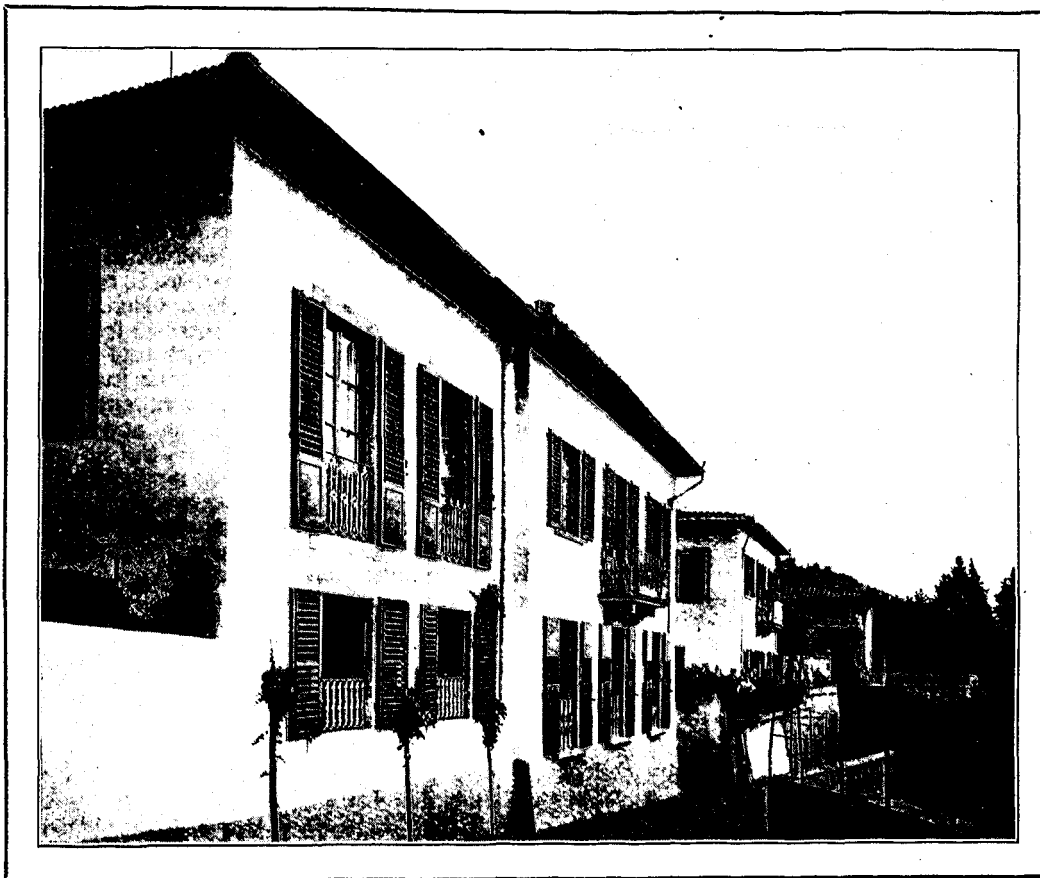
One room round which, as it were, the whole house centres, has been fitted up "in honour of Florence Nightingale," and a portrait of the great pioneer of nursing, a gift from the British Red Cross, hangs as an inspiration and encouragement above the writing table.

The Directrice, Signora Alice Petranele, is a charming, cultured woman, a good linguist, who will make all guests welcome. English nurses fortunate enough to be received at the Casa di Riposo, Fiesole, will long to make two pilgrimages. One, of course, to the Villa Columbaia, the birthplace of our Florence Nightingale, now in the possession of a delightful American family, who realise in the most sympathetic spirit that the Villa is a shrine which should be held in reverence and honour by the Nurses of the World; and, two, to San Girolamo, belonging to the Little Company of Mary, "the

Blue Nuns of Fiesole," to whom the sick and suffering owe a deep debt of gratitude in many parts of the world.

Through the gateway, amidst quiet, delicate and peaceful beauty, you will get a glimpse of the Indulgence Steps with their avenue of cypress trees. Beyond the large square stone on which the first Florentine Christians were beheaded, and an object of veneration throughout long centuries.

Picture the old gateway and the pink turreted gables of the ancient monastery; creeping about them are roses, white jasmine and the bluest clematis you can imagine. About this sacred spot lies the impress of the stress, the struggle, the sorrows, the prayers, and the loving kindness of those who from century to century made the history of San Girolamo.



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The War Memorial of the Red Cross Nurses of Italy.

from dear colleagues, but from that group of gracious ladies, mostly in attendance on the Queen and the Duchesse D'Aosta, of which Madame de Bellegarde was one, all eagerly interested in the promotion of the Public Health Service and Nursing in Italy, which, encouraged by His Excellency, Signor Mussolini, has worked wonders in the past decade. These highly cultured women spoke fluent English and knew all about our National and International Councils of Nurses' movements, and were sincerely interested in our work.

It gives us renewed pleasure, therefore, to come into touch again with Madame de Bellegarde, who extends to us so warm an invitation to visit the beautiful Villa Belvedere, where Nurses of different nationalities may meet and enjoy the lovely restful surroundings and charmingly

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