

an interest in and still exercise influence in the Nursing School.

Miss Hillyers is now in office as Matron at St. Thomas's and Superintendent of the Nightingale Training School. She has long been associated with the hospital as its Assistant Matron, and is well known throughout the profession at large, where her bright and amiable qualities commend her to its esteem. Those of us who attended the Pageant of Nursing History—so brilliantly organised by her for presentation to the International Congress of Nurses—owe her a deep debt of admiration for the skill and beauty with which she presented the founding of the International Council of Nurses, in which the late Miss Isla Stewart (one of the greatest of "Nightingales") was given rightful credit for her invaluable services to internationalism in the Nursing Profession.

We had the pleasure recently to be present on a festive occasion at the United Nursing Services' Club, when luncheon was served to perfection, surely a somewhat unusual condition of affairs where women's clubs are concerned. At least that is our sad experience. And, what was equally agreeable, the cost per head was extraordinarily moderate, and the champagne was of a really excellent brand.

The extension to the dining-room at the Club, situated at 34, Cavendish Square, enables meals to be served without crowding, which is also agreeable. We have come to the conclusion that to be really comfortable clubs should not attempt to cater for too large a *clientele*, and then of course we come up against cost and financial stability in these hard times of profiteering by combines. Anyway, the United Nursing Services' Club announced a dividend lately of 5 per cent. free of income tax, and we may hope its success will continue so long as it is managed on its present liberal and home-like lines. If you are in need of a Club in the West End of London it is fortunate that one awaits you where cleanliness, order, beauty, and dainty food are at your disposal.

We are glad to learn that the condition of the three nurses who have contracted secondary infection through contact with typhoid cases at Croydon, is not dangerous and that the infection is mild. Reports in the press have flicked off their condition as of little importance; let us hope their convalescence will be complete and without serious results. Forty-one deaths in 290 cases of typhoid is abnormally high, and that three nurses should have contracted the disease a serious matter for inquiry. We nursed dozens of cases of typhoid in hospital in the old days, but nurses very rarely became infected—necessary precautions when in attendance on the various infectious and contagious diseases might be issued from the Ministry of Health. This will be absolutely necessary if there is to be curtailment of hospital accommodation in London for the treatment of infectious diseases.

Herr Hilgenfeld, head of the National Socialist charitable organisation, speaking in Berlin, said that Germany needed yearly reinforcements of 14,000 to 15,000 young girls for the nursing profession.

In recent years the numbers of newcomers had

amounted to some 8,000 only. This reluctance among girls to become nurses was partly due to the prejudiced idea that nursing was a sidetrack profession away from the main path of life.

On the contrary, Herr Hilgenfeld declared, nursing was a vital profession. The impulse to nurse sprang from the maternal wish to save life.

A report by the Newcastle-on-Tyne Health Committee which will be considered by the city council, suggests that the present shortage of hospital nurses is due to the gap between the school-leaving age and the age at which girls are admitted to the profession, the preference of the girls for other spheres of labour, the insufficient inducement to compete for promotion, and the high examination standard. The greatest deterrent of all, the committee thinks, is the poor financial standard for qualified nurses. The following recommendations are therefore made:

(1) Inclusion of nursing staffs in the corporation's superannuation scheme.

(2) Increase of wages as follows:—Staff nurses, £65 to £90 a year; ward sisters, £90 to £120 a year; other administrative sisters, £110—£120 to not less than £130.

These increases will cost the city about £2,000 a year.

More sweeping changes may be proposed in the near future, embracing shorter hours for junior nurses, more time for examination studies, increased wages, and fewer restrictions on personal liberty.

The *Journal of the W.A. Nurses* expresses the following opinion: "The position that has arisen lately in Queensland can only be regarded as grave by all thoughtful nurses. The cause of the break in the reciprocal agreement for midwifery nurses lies in the Government's refusal to extend the period of training from six to nine months, in accordance with new regulations that are being enforced in other States and countries at present. Midwifery training in Queensland is not now recognised as such elsewhere, and the decision announced by their own Registration Board, preventing nurses who have completed this branch of their training in other States from registering and practising in that State, is a retrograde step. The value of interchange, with its contribution to the advances in nursing education, cannot be too strongly stressed."

We hear of a shortage of nurses in several countries and Dominions. The *Journal of the Western Australian Nurses* enquires:—

"We wonder why the Commissioner of Public Health waited until there was a *shortage* of nurses before bringing to the notice of the local governing bodies the required ratio of trained to untrained nurses and patients.

"The present shortage is not limited to this State. Reports are to hand indicating that other States, New Zealand, South Africa, and England have many appointments awaiting suitable applicants."

It is announced in the American Nursing Press that the Biennial of the American Nurses' Association, together with the National League of Nursing Education and the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, will meet in Kansas City on April 25th.

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