

speakers give talks in schools to girls of 15 and 16, and to their mothers, and in many other ways encourage suitable recruits to become student nurses. At present the Centre is recruiting 25 student nurses of the right type every week."

To keep faith with these recruits there must be no future competition with a semi-trained sick attendant recognised by Act of Parliament, as advocated by the Royal College of Nursing and the Association of Hospital Matrons.

We have been gathering the opinions of others on the proposals of the Royal College of Nursing for higher salaries for hospital nurses—with which we have sympathy with certain of its recommendations. Ward sisters, night superintendents and sister tutors and staff nurses, actively engaged as they all are in most responsible departments, should be more liberally remunerated without a doubt.

We find public opinion decidedly against the very high salaries recommended for matrons of the larger hospitals, whose work in these days is supplemented by so many assistants—that the cost of these senior officials (with emoluments), from £1,000 to £1,400 a year, with no family responsibility, has apparently caused resident medical officers to consider their own claims.

"How about the resident house staff?" one enquires. "We spend anything from £700 to £1,000 in qualifying for these posts—the majority of matrons have their professional education free gratis—and our emoluments average from £100 to £150 per annum—and keep, of course. Should the Ministry of Health agree to the matrons' schedule, you may depend upon it we residents will be up and doing."

Then the matrons of little hospitals, of from 50 to 70 beds, where no resident medical officer is on the staff, have exceedingly responsible and exacting work, very little off-duty time, and much night duty. These workers are not included in the table of the Royal College of Nursing. This is considered unjust. One writes: "I am not fussing, the table of salaries suggested is absurd—£500 and emoluments should be the limit. I have been an assistant matron in a hospital of 400 beds—and did most of the work—anyway, all the drudgery, for £120 a year. I note the proposal is that 'the matron's ass' should have £500—don't they wish they may get it."

"No doubt," writes a sister, "this is another matter which will be conveniently shelved until after the war. I could do with £150 to £250, uniform and all found. I now receive £110 (paid monthly). I began at £70—now that is the wage of chambermaids. I think £1,000 to £1,400 for being matrons would rouse jealousy in our ranks."

A hospital secretary writes: "My salary is £700 all told and glad I am to get it. No emoluments, excepting lunch."

We have referred elsewhere in this issue to that most entrancing book, "And So To Bath," by Mr. Cecil Roberts.

When we come to the church at Chilton Foliat we are told it is lovely to linger in, and has a pleasant story of those who have worshipped there and passed on. Amongst the memorials is to be found a stained glass window to Elizabeth Mills Reid, the wife of Whitelaw Reid, the American Ambassador to Great Britain from 1906 to 1912. It is the gift of her daughter, Lady Ward, who lived in the village. The Ambassador's wife loved this old church. Her nephew, a young American who joined the British Air Force during the War, and was killed when flying near the village, lies buried here, and to the church she gave a cross, some candlesticks, and the carved angels on the reredos. "Again," says the author, "I had a thrill when seeing this memorial window to Mrs. Reid. The splendours of the hospitality dispensed by her at the vanished Dorchester House, Park Lane, were long before my day."

These splendours were not, however, before the day of the Editor of this journal, and well do we remember a wonderful occasion in 1909 when Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid welcomed the chief delegates of the International Council of Nurses to a sumptuous luncheon at Dorchester House, when an interesting incident took place—a cable to Mrs. Reid from U.S.A. notified a vacancy for a new Chief of the Nursing Department of the American Red Cross. Miss Delano was of the company. Who better qualified for this important position? She then and there accepted nomination, was elected in due course, and her wonderful work for the American Red Cross has passed into history.

Later in the afternoon Dorchester House was the scene of a great popular Reception of the members of Congress. Great gastronomic preparations had been made. Alas, with one fell swoop the German delegation rushed in, swarmed the buffet and swept it clear! But the "splendours of the hospitality of Dorchester House" stood the test. Mrs. Reid, convulsed with laughter, waved a hand, and sandwiches, cakes, fruits, ices, sweets, tea, coffee, lemonade and other delectable viands again appeared as if by magic. It was a scene never to be forgotten! Coming events cast their shadows ahead!

The King has given orders for appointments and awards for brave conduct in Civil defence.

Amongst those honoured we congratulate Mrs. Laura Eleanor McKay, sister and assistant matron, City of London Maternity Hospital.

Sister McKay was in charge when the City of London Maternity Hospital was bombed. Her calm bearing during this and previous air raids gave confidence to the rest of the staff, who co-operated magnificently in securing the comfort and safety of the patients.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NURSES' SALARIES.

As we go to press we learn that invitations have been sent out from the Ministry of Health to nurses' organisations to send representatives to an informal discussion on the Salaries of Nurses, as it is proposed to institute a Nurses Salaries Committee. The Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, August 13th, at the Ministry, at 3 p.m. This question is of great economic interest to the whole hospital world. The deputation will be received by Mr. J. C. Wrigley, C.B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)