ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Elderly Nurses National Home Fund

BOURNEMOUTH

AND

THE MARY ELIZABETH DACOMBE HOMES OF REST

at

WINKTON, near CHRISTCHURCH

(Loaned by the Trustees)

Year ending May 31st, 1938

G. A. PARRY, Printer, Boscombe.

THE ELDERLY NURSES NATIONAL HOME FUND
BOURNEMOUTH

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BOURNEMOUTH

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THE ELDERLY NURSES NATIONAL HOME FUND
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HISTORY AND OBJECTS OF THE SCHEME.

The invaluable service rendered to the community by the nursing profession is now universally recognised and appreciated. It is impossible to exaggerate the extent to which the comfort of the sick and the relief of suffering have been promoted by the devoted attention of skilled and trained nurses.

Recent advances in the science of medicine and the art of surgery would have been impossible, or at least gravely retarded, if trained nurses had not been available to co-operate with the medical profession by providing the continuous care and attention necessary, and medical men appreciate fully how indispensable are the skill and devotion of nurses.

As is so often the case with those engaged in rendering the most vital of services to the community, the remuneration of nurses falls conspicuously below either the value of their skill or the indebtedness of the public. On this account it is obvious that comparatively few nurses are in a position to make any adequate provision for the future, when either infirmity or old age incapacitates them from continuing their work.

It is distressing to realise that, after a life of active service in the interests of the public, many nurses are destined, owing to inadequate means, to spend the period after their retirement in conditions of acute poverty, lacking the essentials of adequate nutrition and reasonable comfort. There has been a growing feeling that the time has come for the public to discharge the debt they owe to the nursing profession, by taking steps to assist these deserving servants of the community. Schemes are in existence in a few districts in the country to give aid in such cases, but these only very partially meet the needs.

A few years ago some Bournemouth ladies, who were aware of the distressing conditions under which some elderly nurses were compelled to live, conceived the idea of establishing a Home in which nurses no longer able, owing to age or infirmity, to continue in the active work of their profession, and whose straitened circumstances rendered it impossible for them to provide for themselves, could be received and enabled to spend their declining years in conditions of reasonable comfort and security. To make such a Home acceptable, it must be conducted on such lines as would enable the inmates to live their own lives with as few restrictions as possible.

Consistent with such a scheme, it was found desirable to make provision for the following cases :

(1) Nurses in a position to bear the full cost of their upkeep from their own resources if provided with a home.

(2) Nurses only partially able to defray the cost of their maintenance.

(3) Nurses whose resources are so limited as to be able to contribute little or nothing.

A Committee was therefore formed, and to designate the scheme the title *The Elderly Nurses National Home Fund* was

adopted. In 1935 the Countess of Malmesbury became President. The term "National" in the title should be explained. As this scheme of a Home for Elderly Nurses originated in Bournemouth, it is natural that the erection of the first Home should be in or near Bournemouth. This, however, must not be understood to mean that only elderly nurses resident in this neighbourhood are eligible to enter the Home. On the contrary, as the Fund is *National*, nurses are eligible for nomination from any part of the country. Further, as the necessity for more accommodation arises—an event certainly to be anticipated—Homes in other parts of the country will have to be established.

To establish such a Home, even on a modest scale, requires a considerable sum of money. First, to cover the cost of building and equipment, and, secondly, for the establishment of an Endowment Fund for the maintenance of the Home, and the assistance of those inmates who are unable to contribute the full cost of their upkeep.

Funds have been raised by means of general appeals and by Bazaars and other efforts. Although generous donations have been received from various parts of the country, a very large proportion of the money raised has come from Bournemouth and district and the Committee are anxious to widen the scope of appeal and to receive further help from outside areas. In view of the fact that the Home to be established is to be *National* in character and its benefits not in any way restricted to residents in a particular locality, it is felt by the Committee that if only the objects of the scheme could be more widely known there would be a sympathetic response from the generous public.

Nurses in a number of general and special hospitals in different parts of the country have shown their interest in this scheme for the benefit of members of their own profession by placing collecting boxes in their sitting rooms so as to help the Fund.

Pending the erection of a permanent Home, the Committee were glad to make a start on a very modest scale, by utilizing four cottages near Christchurch, kindly loaned by the Trustees of the "Mary Elizabeth Dacombe Homes of Rest." These cottages have been put to immediate use for the accommodation of four nurses. A lady member of the Committee is assigned to each nurse, and acts as friend and sponsor. Other distressed nurses for whom this accommodation was not available have been helped by the Samaritan Fund.

In 1937 it was felt that the money available, although not nearly adequate for the provision of the amount of accommodation desirable, would justify making a start on the erection of a Permanent Home. A site of two acres, in Riverside Avenue, Holdenhurst,. Bournemouth, had been acquired, through the generosity of the Misses Cooper Dean, and plans for a building on this site were prepared by the Architect, Mr. W. J. Dacombe. These plans were described in last year's report, but it may be well to mention the main features again.

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The complete plans (see centre pages) show accommodation for 36 nurses and a staff of about five, in a two-storey building consisting of a central portion facing south-east, with wings at either end inclined at an angle from the central block.

The central block contains a central kitchen, communal lounge, dining room, writing room, etc., with accommodation for staff and rooms for twelve nurses. Each nurse is to have a separate sitting room (with bed in alcove), so that she can, when she desires, enjoy complete privacy. Hot and cold water are to be available in each room, and a gas fire provided. It is contemplated to use the rooms in this central section for nurses unable to look after themselves in independent flats, or who prefer to live a more communal life. A sick-room is also to be provided for any nurse who may be temporarily incapacitated and needing special attention.

The need for a central block of this kind has been forcibly impressed on the Committee by the experience at Winkton. Unfortunately there has been a considerable amount of illness among the nurses there, and it was a matter of difficulty to deal satisfactorily with the conditions. In the proposed new building the presence of a trained nurse as Matron and the provision of a sick-room will allow prompt aid to be given in such cases.

The Committee feel strongly that their responsibility for the welfare of nurses dealt with under the scheme cannot end with the mere provision of Homes in which to live, but that the arrangements must be such as to allow for prompt attention in case of sickness or other emergency.

The wings at each end of the central block are to contain on each floor three independent flats, each consisting of sitting room (with bed in alcove), kitchenette, cupboards, etc., providing the necessary conveniences to enable the occupant to be entirely independent and to look after herself, whilst still having the advantage of access to the communal facilities of the central block. The complete scheme will therefore bring the total accommodation to 36, of which 24 would be in separate flats and 12 in the central block.

The kitchen and communal rooms of the central block will be large enough to serve the full number of 36 nurses contemplated in the complete scheme.

Tenders were invited for the erection of the new building and the contract was given to Messrs. George & Harding, of Bournemouth, whose tender amounted to £8,821 for the central block alone, £2,774 for the east wing, and £2,785 for the west wing. Unfortunately, owing largely to increased cost of building and materials, the sum required for the complete scheme was considerably in excess of the capital available to the Committee. It was decided, therefore, to proceed, in the first instance, with the erection of the central block only, leaving the wings to be added later, when the generosity of the public has provided the requisite funds.

The necessity of curtailing the scheme in this way was a severe disappointment to the Committee, since the central block provides for 12 nurses only, whilst the addition of two wings would allow 24 to be received, and would give applicants the option of a self-contained flat instead of merely a combined bed-sitting room.

The administrative arrangements in the central block (day rooms, kitchen, staff quarters, heating arrangements, etc.) will suffice for the complete scheme, and it will be observed that the provision of an additional sum of between £5,000 and £6,000 **would enable the accommodation for nurses to be doubled.** It is hoped, therefore, that contributions will soon be forthcoming to enable the Committee to provide the two wings at an early date. An individual donation of £3,000 would be commemorated by naming a wing after the donor or in memory of someone nominated by the donor.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR

The most striking event of the year was the commencement of the building of the new Permanent Home.

The foundation stone was laid on Friday, October 29th, 1937, with full Masonic ceremonial, by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (the Right Honourable the Earl of Malmesbury), assisted by the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. The President—the Countess of Malmesbury—occupied the Chair. The ceremony was most impressive and created much interest and appreciation to the audience of Freemasons and the general public, who attended in large numbers, notwithstanding the very inclement weather.

The lead casket placed in the Foundation Stone contained (1) a set of Coronation coins as follows: five shilling piece, half-crown, florin, shilling, one shilling (Scotch), sixpence, silver threepenny piece, bronze threepenny piece, bronze penny, bronze halfpenny, bronze farthing; (2) Maundy money: silver penny, silver twopenny piece, silver threepenny piece, silver fourpenny piece; (3) a copy of *The Times*, dated October 28th, 1937 (containing a letter on the scheme signed by the Countess of Malmesbury, the Bishop of Southampton, Dame Louise McIlroy, and the Chairman of the Committee); (4) a copy of the *Bournemouth Daily Echo*, dated October 23rd, 1937; and (5) a copy of the Annual Report of the Committee for 1936-37.

During the ceremony the President, the Countess of Malmesbury, announced that Her Majesty Queen Mary had been graciously pleased to express her interest in the new building scheme and that, as a token of her interest, she had been good enough to send a donation to our funds.

A personal letter to Dr. Coutts was read from Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, wishing the cause every success, and a letter to Dr. Richardson from the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., conveying congratulations on the success already achieved.

DRAWING ROOM MEETING IN LONDON.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bullivant at Mortimer House, Egerton Gardens, Kensington. The Countess of Malmesbury, who presided, gave an outline of the scheme. The speakers were the Bishop of London, Sir William Wilcox, Dame Louise McIlroy and Miss Darbyshire, late Matron of University College Hospital. As a result of the meeting an auxiliary committee was formed in London with Lady Hamond Graeme as chairman, the following ladies consenting to act on the committee: The Hon. Mrs. Stuart-Wortley, Mrs. Anstruther, Mrs. Bullivant,

Miss Italia Conti, Lady Carden, The Lady Theresa Herbert, Lady Wilcox, Dame Louise McIlroy, Lady Hague, Lady Kennedy and Miss Hall (Nation's Fund for Nurses). The Countess of Ilchester and the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., consented to act as Vice-Presidents of this London auxiliary committee. This committee has undertaken to furnish a stall for the forthcoming Bazaar.

Also, arising out of the London meeting, arrangements have been made for a Garden Fete to be held in 1938 in the grounds of Highcliffe Castle, through the kindness of the Hon. Mrs. Stuart Wortley.

Various efforts during the year have resulted in substantial amounts being added to our funds.

The collection at the Foundation Stone laying amounted to over £100.

The Annual Bridge Tournament, so ably organised by Miss Blanche Fraser, resulted in a nett balance of £55 14s. 0d.

A Matinee at the Palace Court Theatre, which could not be properly organised through lack of time, added £9 9s. 6d. to the funds.

The Annual Jumble Sale, carried through by the energy of Mrs. Daly and her helpers, realised £32 2s. 10d.

Mrs. Malpas undertook the management of a "Brick" scheme in aid of the cost of building, cards being supplied with spaces for donations of 1/- to provide a brick. This raised, during the year, the sum of £50 10s. 0d.

A concert organised by Miss Cockin raised £8 4s. 6d.

COLLECTING BOX SCHEME.

Up to the present date 130 collecting boxes have been placed in various parts of England. An arrangement has been made for these to be cleared twice yearly.

The collecting for local districts has been very kindly undertaken by the following ladies:—

Bournemouth West and Parkstone: Miss Rose, Powerscourt, Chine Crescent Road, Bournemouth.
Bournemouth Central: Mrs. Wyatt, 61 Overcliff Drive, West Southbourne.
Boscombe: Miss Mott, 4 Dingle Road, Boscombe.
Southbourne: Miss Spencer Walker, 127 Corhampton Road, Boscombe.
Swanage: Mrs. Rees, Quay House, Swanage.

The remainder of the boxes are cleared by post by the Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. W. Silverwood Richardson, 17 Keswick Road, Boscombe.

The amount collected in this way for the year was £27 3s. 4d.

THANKS.

To all those who worked so hard to make these schemes successful, and also to the faithful friends who continue to help us by donations or annual subscriptions (which are individually acknowledged below) we owe our very grateful thanks.

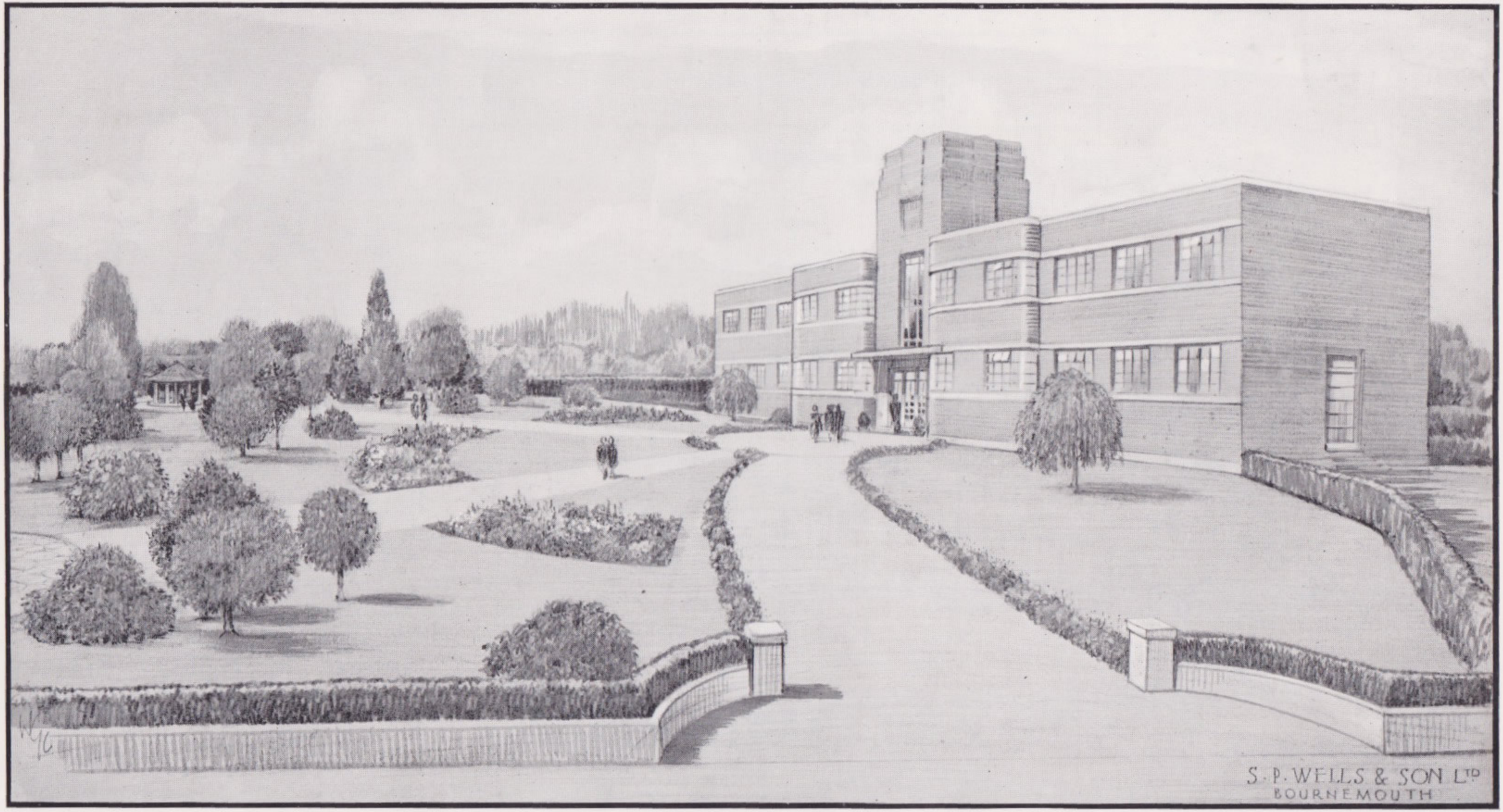
The Committee also desire to thank most cordially the Earl of Malmesbury and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, for their kindness in enabling the Foundation Stone of the new building to be laid in such a striking and memorable manner; they also express their gratitude to Colonel Malet, Mr. A. F. Parsons, and many others, who assisted on that occasion in one capacity or another.

In connection with the new building, we have to express our thanks to the Architects, Messrs. W. J. Dacombe & Son, to the Builders, Messrs. George & Harding, and also to the West Hants Water Co., the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co., the Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply Co., for special concessions in connection with the installation of their services, and to Messrs. Kennedy's and Messrs. Sherry & Haycock for special terms with regard to supply of materials and fittings.

We appreciate very much the help of the Press in giving publicity to our scheme.

The Committee are very grateful to the Nation's Fund for Nurses for their generosity in making a weekly grant in aid towards some of the nurses under our care.

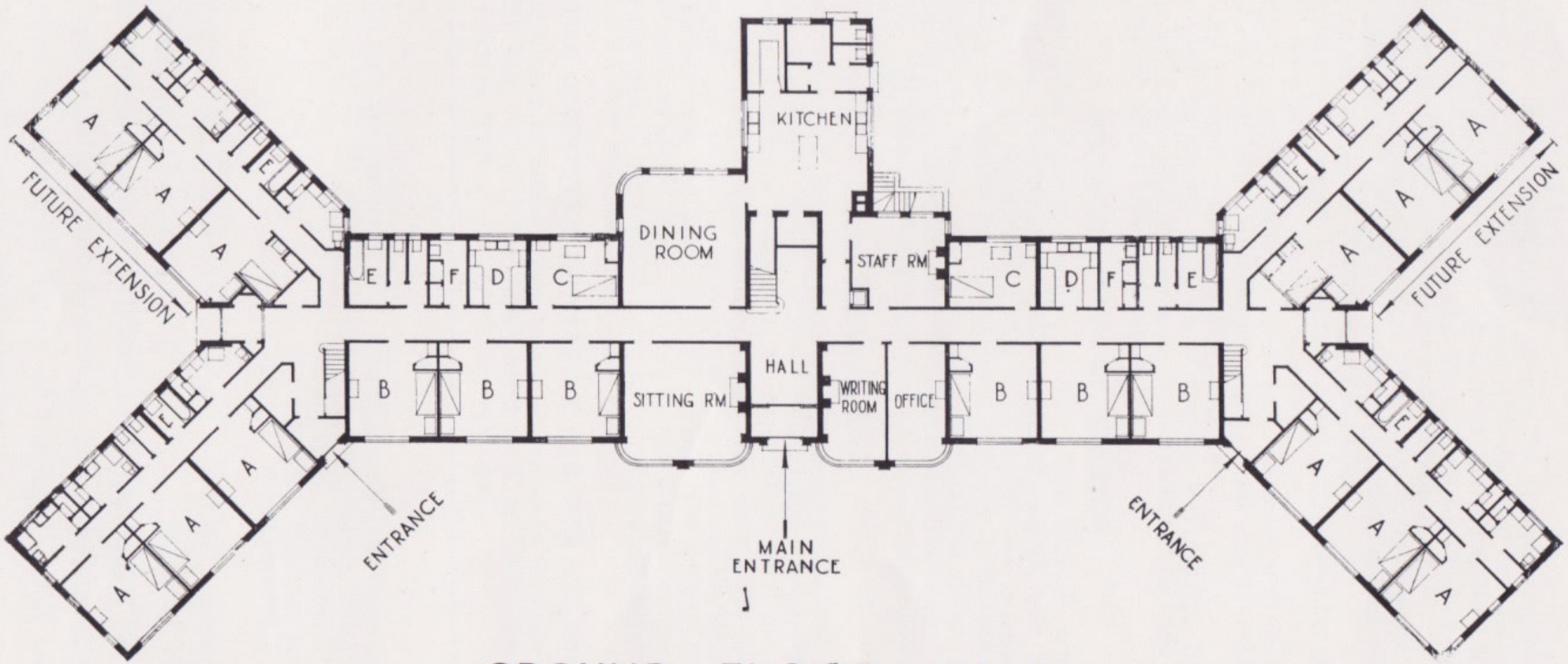
We have to thank Miss Edith Harrison, of Liverpool, for her kind interest in our scheme and for her endeavours to obtain subscriptions for our funds



SUGGESTED LAY-OUT OF GROUNDS

Prepared by S. P. WELLS & SON, Ltd.

A.	SELF-CONTAINED FLATS	D.	IRONING ROOMS
B.	BED-SITTING ROOMS	E.	BATHROOMS
C.	STAFF BEDROOMS	F.	SLOP CLOSETS



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE 20 15 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 OF FEET.

W. J. DACOMBE & SON
REGISTERED ARCHITECTS
LLOYDS BANK CHAMBERS,
BOSCOMBE. BOURNEMOUTH

from that district. We much regret that ill-health has compelled her to relinquish active work of this kind.

We have also most cordially to thank the Honorary Officers for their services during the year. Mr. Mooring Aldridge has had to devote a large amount of time to our interests in the preparation of the Deed of Conveyance of the land at Holdenhurst, and the Declaration of Trust, a copy of which has been deposited with the Charity Commissioners.

To Dr. Dorothea Symons, the Hon. Physician to the Homes, we owe very grateful thanks for all the time and attention she has devoted to looking after the health of the nurses at Winkton and elsewhere.

Two plaques, the work of A. Brailsford, Esq., presented by an anonymous donor, have been placed in the new building.

We deeply regret the loss of a member of our General Council, Sir Ashley Mackintosh, K.C.V.O., etc., of Aberdeen, who very shortly before his death had sent us a generous contribution.

We are glad to report that the Countess Baldwin of Bewdley, Miss MacManus and Lady Hamond Graeme have consented to their names being placed on the list of our General Council.

COTTAGE HOMES AT WINKTON.

There have been changes during the year. Miss Hooper, who was one of the first inmates, died in July, 1937, at the age of 91, and was buried in Burton Churchyard. Miss Wall, owing to ill-health, had to leave her cottage and has been maintained in a small nursing home in Bournemouth.

Miss Jenkins and Miss Carter were selected to fill the vacant places.

The Committee are grateful to the Trustees for lending these Homes entirely free of rent, and also for decorating two of the cottages after the changes mentioned above.

SAMARITAN FUND.

Each year from the Maintenance Account a small amount is allotted to the "Samaritan Fund," which was established for the purpose of dealing *promptly* with necessitous cases by temporary assistance in the form, *e.g.*, of small grants to provide coal or food, especially during the winter months. Miss Thompson has the administration of this fund and we thank her for the time and thought she has devoted to this work. Only very urgent cases are dealt with and although since the fund was started no more than £138 has been expended, it has been the means of bringing comfort and alleviating distress in a number of cases.

THE COMMITTEE EARNESTLY ASK FOR LEGACIES.

Those who may be called upon to advise testators who are making their Wills might bear in mind the very useful work in which we are engaged. Legacies, whether large or small, will be welcomed.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

To those who are desirous of benefitting *The Elderly Nurses National Home Fund*, Bournemouth, by Will, the following form (as part of such Will) is recommended.

I give to the *Elderly Nurses National Home Fund*, Bournemouth, the sum of £.....(free of duty) for such purposes as the Committee of Management for the time being may decide and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.