ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Elderly Nurses National Home Fund

BOURNEMOUTH

One of the Bed-sitting Rooms

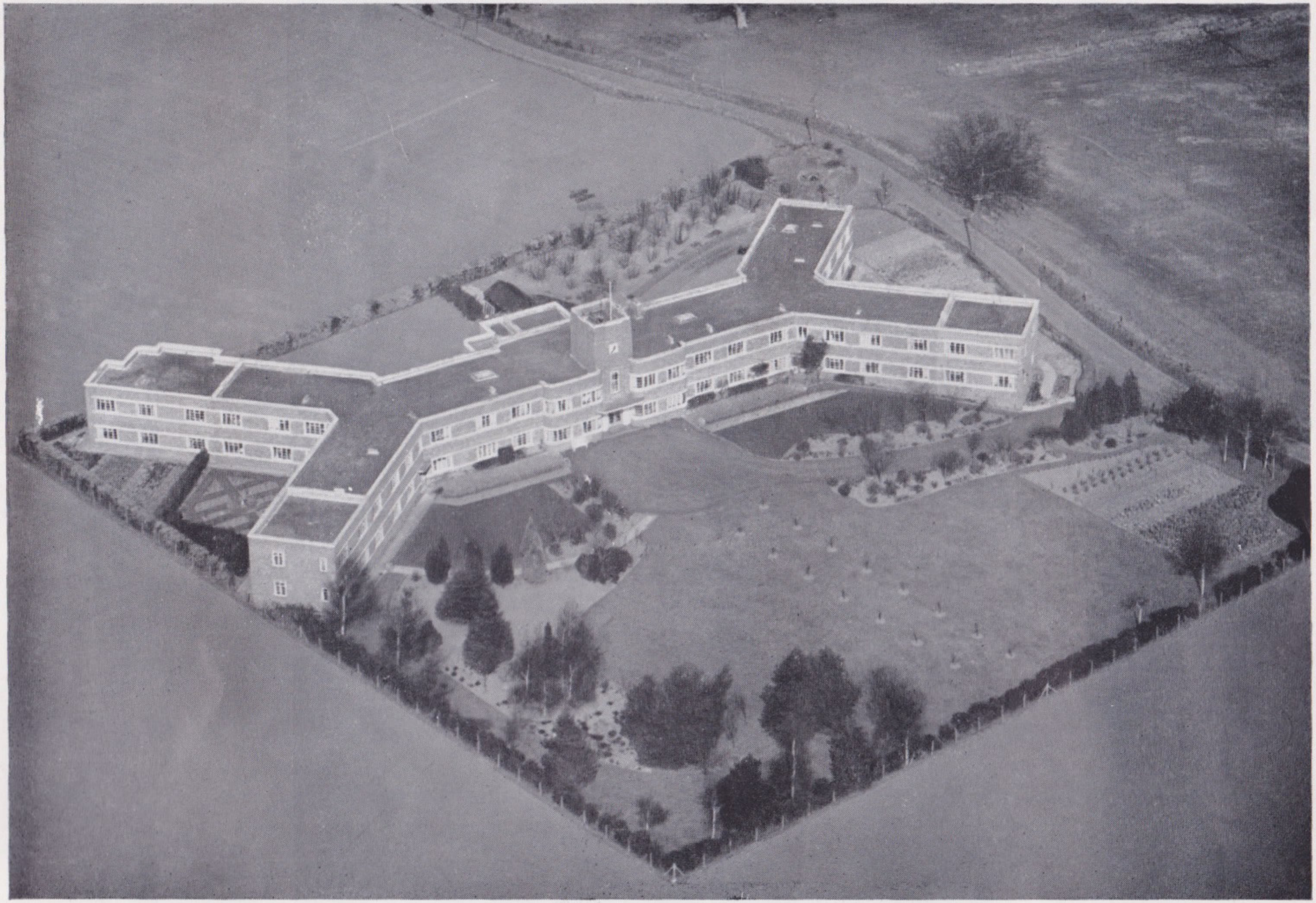
Year ended March 31st, 1956

President :—The Lord Campion, G.C.B., D.C.L., Little Bowes, Abinger Hammer, Nr. Dorking.

Chairman :—W. S. Richardson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., 6, Boscombe Spa Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth.

Hon. Treasurer :—G. L. Walton, Esq., National Provincial Bank, Ltd., The Square, Bournemouth.

Hon. Secretary :—J. A. Haley, Esq., 8, The Avenue, Branksone Park, Bournemouth



Aerial View of Elderly Nurses Homes

The Elderly Nurses National Home Fund

BOURNEMOUTH.

Vice-Presidents :

The Marchioness of Carisbrooke
The Countess of Ilchester
Amy, Countess of Normanton
The Viscount Nuffield, G.B.E., M.A., D.C.L.
Miss Ellen A. Cooper-Dean
Miss L. W. Chadwick

Patrons :

Mrs. Aris
The Very Revd. the Dean of Hereford
J. S. Stanley Beard, Esq., J.P.
Mrs. J. Large
Mrs. Pond

Members of the General Council :

The Most Revd. the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Revd. the Lord Archbishop of York
The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Winchester
The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Guildford
The Right Revd. Bishop A. B. L. Karney, D.D.
The Mayor of Bournemouth
Lady Hamond Graeme
Dame Anne Louise McIlroy, D.B.E., M.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.P.
Sir Russell Wilkinson, K.C.V.O.
Chairman Bournemouth Division B.M.A.
President of Bournemouth Medical Society
Miss Emily MacManus, R.R.C., O.B.E.
J. Bennett Beale, Esq., J.P.
Rev. W. Ross, S.J.

Trustees :

National Provincial Bank, Limited

Officers and Committee of Management :

Chairman :

W. S. Richardson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., Rossmore, 6, Boscombe Spa Road, Boscombe

Hon. Treasurer :

G. L. Walton, Esq., National Provincial Bank, Ltd., The Square, Bournemouth

Hon. Assistant Treasurer :

Miss Phyllis Lennox Boyd, E21, San Remo Towers, Michelgrove Road, Boscombe

Hon. Auditors :

Messrs. Bradley, Slater & Ratcliffe, 584, Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

Hon. Secretary :

J. A. Haley, Esq., 8, The Avenue, Branksome Park, Bournemouth

General Committee :

Mrs. O. C. Carter, Flat 9b, Bath Hill Court, Bournemouth
Miss Lennox-Boyd, E21, San Remo Towers, Boscombe, Bournemouth
Miss M. R. M. Harding, 17 Glenferness Avenue, Bournemouth
Mrs. H. A. Bennett, 20, Lombard Avenue, Southbourne
Mrs. Gordon Luker, Sunbay, Elmstead Road, Canford Cliffs
Mrs. Wyatt, 61, Boscombe Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth
Mrs. Haley, 8, The Avenue, Branksome Park, Bournemouth
Miss G. M. Saye, M.B.E., J.P., Nunthorpe Cottage, Branksome Hill Road, Bournemouth
Miss Meyer, Dudly Cottage, Twynham Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth
Rev. W. Stedmond, The Vicarage, Holdenhurst, Bournemouth
Mrs. Stedmond, The Vicarage, Holdenhurst, Bournemouth
Miss Robinson, Hillingdon, 14, Portarlington Road, Bournemouth West
C. Sutton, Esq., 580, Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth
Miss Thompson, 3, Bracken Road, West Southbourne, Bournemouth
C. V. Vigar, Esq., 552, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth
R. O. Clapcott, Esq., 40a, Crabton Close Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth
A. J. Playdon, Esq., 16, Soberton Road, Queen's Park, Bournemouth
Mrs. F. Beale, 10b, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth
Dr. M. Mitchell, 50, Barrack Road, Christchurch

ANNUAL REPORT

The main purpose of each year's Annual Report is to stress the continued necessity for maintaining the keenest possible interest in the Fund by which the Elderly Nurses' Home exists, to endeavour to widen the circle whence comes its support, and as a reminder that although situated in Bournemouth the Home is neither local nor denominational.

To support our plea for the keenest possible interest in the Home Fund there is need only to mention that the Waiting List for admission is still above the hundred mark, and that the overwhelming majority of these applicants are in seriously reduced circumstances. This after a life of sacrificial service. There is the fact, not open to argument, that for many years to come elderly nurses in straightened circumstances will need all the help one can give them. We ask, therefore, please, for continued interest of all friends in the work that is being accomplished in our Home.

And to underline our point about the Home being neither local nor denominational, just mention that the nurses in residence at the moment come from all parts of the British Isles may be stressed. Although the majority of them are Church of England, the Roman Catholic and the Free Churches are represented.

In the 1952 Report concern was expressed about the growing inadequacy of the sick-bay accommodation at the Home. We were "falling down" on our declared policy that every resident nurse would be looked after within the Home, except in case of serious accident or serious mental illness. Your Committee is convinced that this policy represents an essential aspect of that atmosphere of security which pervades the Home; and this conviction is responsible for the major development which is rapidly taking shape in the grounds of the Home, which when completed will about double the sick-bay accommodation. It is hoped that the new building will be sufficiently advanced to make inspection one of the high lights of the Nurses' Annual Sale to be held on Wednesday, June 27th, 1956.

Your Committee is confident that the progress which has been made since the Home was opened nearly 20 years ago must give assurance to all subscribers that excellent use has been made of the money so generously placed at its disposal.

A major change has taken place at the Home recently, and although it happened since the end of the year under review, it is felt that reference should be made to it in this report. Miss G. M. Smitheram, who has served as Matron for the past six years with extreme devotion has retired, and her place has been taken by Miss J. D. Peter, who comes to us with a splendid record of service in Homes somewhat similar to our own. Changes are inevitable as the years roll on, and much as we may regret them they just have to be accepted. We here set on record our appreciation of the past and our hope for the future.

Once again it is our privilege to say "Thank You" to all who, during the year, have given of their time and ability in providing entertainment for our nurses. Often they are entertained in the Home, and taken out to be entertained in theatre, cinema or concert hall, with transport and refreshment provided. All this is much appreciated not only by the nurses, but also by your Committee. At this point in the report it would be right to list the people and organisations who have rendered this wonderful service, but their number is legion, and this alone forbids detailed mention.

There is, however, one service to which we would draw special attention in the hope that some more will be inspired to join in the good work. Regularly, a few nurses at a time are taken out for drives by friends who put themselves and their cars at the nurses' disposal, and no words are required to stress what a blessing this service is to those whose movements are limited by age and infirmity. A vision of the countryside in Spring and Summer is better than lots of medicine or boxes of pills. Matron will be pleased to make all arrangements if, and when, mention is made of willingness to join in the good work.

And finally, mention must be made of much appreciated gifts both to the Home and to the nurses ; and to the services rendered to the Home day in and day out by Matron and her Staff.

The Chapel

There is a room in the Home set apart as a Chapel, and dedicated for use as a Chapel by the Bishop of Winchester on 8th December, 1947. The Chapel, beautifully furnished by Mr. and the late Mrs. W. S. Richardson, is in memory of their daughter, Sybil Margaret Richardson, M.A. (Oxon), who lost her life by enemy action in London. The Chapel is always open, and is much appreciated as a place of meditation and quiet. Holy Communion is celebrated therein from time to time.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to place on record the deaths of the undermentioned nurses :—

Miss Elsie C. Arrow (9 years' residence).
Miss Nellie M. Barry (2 years' residence).
Miss Leah Lees (9 years' residence).
Miss Alice Smith (8 years' residence).
Miss Effie G. Thompson (2 years' residence).

It is a joy to know that these all found comfort with us during the eventide of their lives.

Finance

During the year under review which ended on the 31st March, 1956, we were again faced with increasing costs of essential maintenance and difficulties in obtaining subscriptions and donations. Unfortunately we had again to call on capital assistance to make good deficiencies in Receipts against Payments on Maintenance Account, to as much as £1,000.

This notwithstanding, the financial record of the year may be regarded as satisfactory when consideration is given to the difficulties experienced. Our total maintenance expenditure amounted to £8,263 0s. 2d., which is only £71 10s. 0d. more than in the previous year. Although we had heavier charges for catering, household expenses, fuel, and wages and salaries, we were not faced with such heavy expenses for Repairs and Renewals. Fund Administration expenses remained at a little over 2 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Donations and Subscriptions yielded in all £1,580 2s. 0d., which is £34 16s. 0d. less than in the year to the 31st March, 1955. On the other hand, our investment income was higher and, whilst the Contributions from the resident nurses and the proceeds from the Flag Day were much the same, the Bring and Buy Sale yielded a praiseworthy record figure of £725 4s. 10d.

As the Capital Account discloses, we were again fortunate in the receipt of legacies to a total value of £2,892 7s. 2d. in cash and securities. Some changes in the holdings of securities were considered to be benficial and a sale had to be effected to make provision for the initial payments for the extension to the Home.

The value of the Home's Assets has suffered from very material falls in the prices of Stock Exchange securities. This value at £60,593 14s. 0d. was, on the 31st March, 1956, £1,608 13s. 10d. lower than at the same date in 1955. The securities held, however, have, in the main, fixed dates for redemption and we can, therefore, look to a gradual improvement in their value rather than the reverse.

Special Notice to Subscribers

Subscribers are earnestly invited to consider adopting the scheme involving the execution of a Deed of Covenant. It enables the Home to secure, as an addition to your subscription, the Income Tax previously paid by the subscriber. So at no extra cost to the subscriber your actual gift to the Home is greatly increased. Please think about this. It can make such a difference to our finances.

This year's Flag Day is arranged for Saturday, August 18th. Helpers are needed, and any offer of help will be appreciated by Mr. Richardson.

This year's "Bring and Buy" Sale will be held at the Home on Wednesday, 27th June. Here again all the help that you can give is needed.