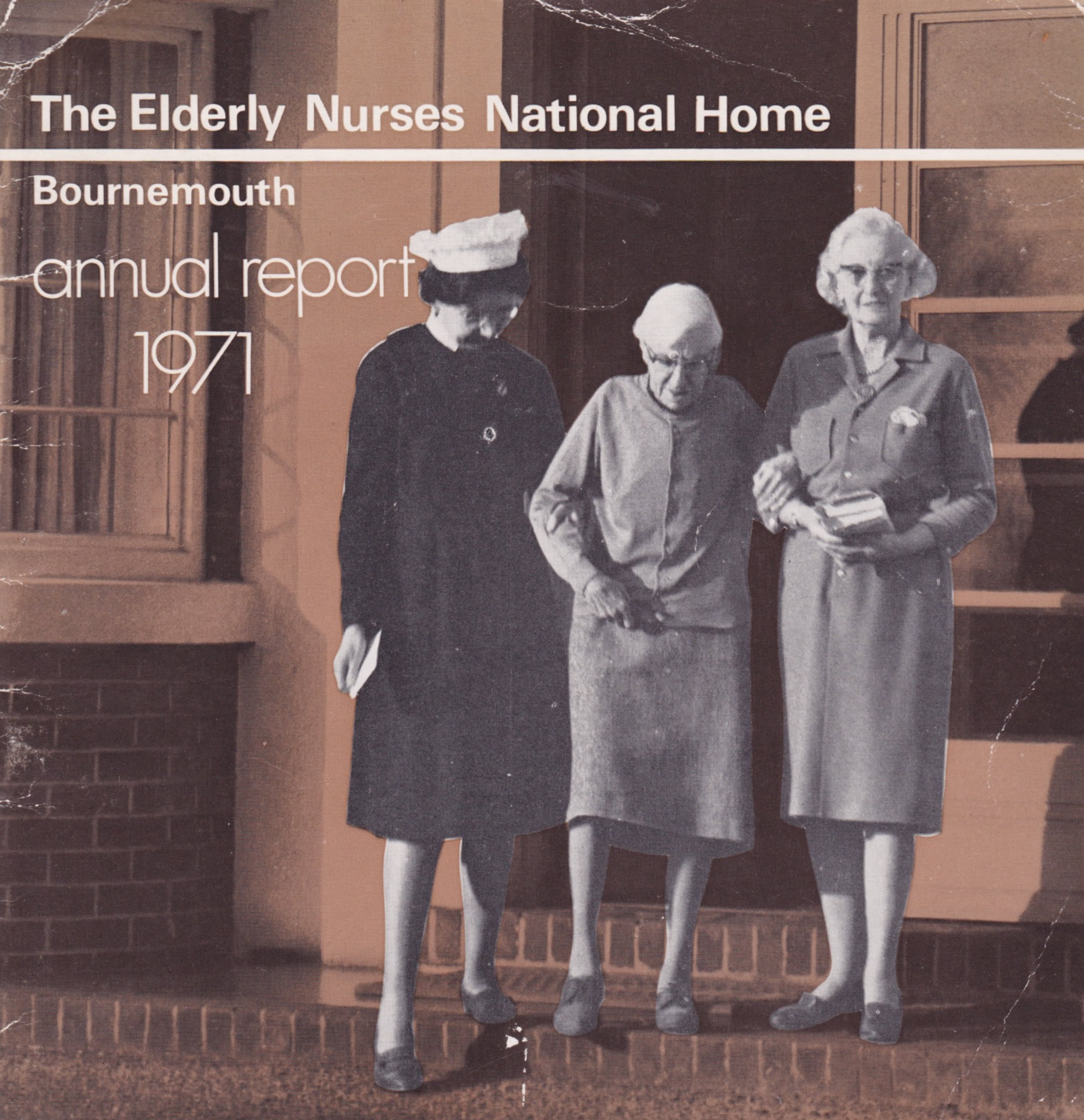
The Elderly Nurses National Home

Bournemouth

annual report 1971



The Elderly Nurses' National Home

Bournemouth

Patrons:

Viscount Boyd of Merton, P.C., C.H. Sir Alan J. Cobham, K.B.E., A.F.C.

Vice-Presidents:

Rev. W. Stedmond Mrs. J. A. Haley

Chairman:
Hugh Stewart, Esq.

Vice-Chairman
J. W. Layland, Esq., M.A.

Hon. Treasurer:
M. K. Perry, Esq.

Hon. Chaplain:
Rev. J. E. A. Hopkins, T.D., M.A.

Joint Secretaries:
Mrs. W. Benedict V. K. James, Esq.

Asst. Secretary:
Miss E. Brindle

Matron:
Miss M. Thornton, S.R.N.

Auditors:
Messrs. Stephenson & Co.

Custodian Trustees:
National Westminster Bank Ltd.

Chairman of Finance Committee: Hugh Stewart, Esq., A.I.B.

Chairman of House Committee: Mrs. H. A. Bennett

Chairman of Land and Buildings Committee: Arthur Cripps, Esq., L.R.I.B.A.

General Committee:

Miss M. A. K. Barratt, 4a Coy Pond Road, Poole
Mrs. H. A. Bennett, 20 Lombard Avenue, Southbourne
Mrs. J. Bodinnar, Flat 2, Wolverley Court, Marlborough Road, Bournemouth
Dr. R. Edward Chaplin, Ph.D., F.C.P.S., 47 Harland Road, Bournemouth
Arthur Cripps, Esq., L.R.I.B.A., 26 St. Clair Road, Canford Cliffs
Dame Monica Golding, D.B.E., R.R.C., 9 Sandford Court, Belle Vue Road, Southbourne
Miss O. M. Harburn, 124 Stour Road. Christchurch
L. C. Hillard, Esq., 24a Penrith Road, Boscombe
Mrs. C. E. Hyde, 29 Balmoral Avenue. Queen's Park, Bournemouth
J. W. Layland, Esq., M.A., 2 Queen's Park West Drive, Bournemouth
Mrs. Gordon Luker, 95 Compton Avenue, Parkstone
Miss M. Manley, L.D.S., 50 Blake Dene Avenue, Lilliput, Poole
Miss E. M. Meyer, Dudley Cottage, 8 Twynham Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth
M. K. Perry, Esq., National Westminster Bank, Bournemouth
Miss F. L. Potts, Matron, Poole General Hospital, Dorset
Hugh Stewart, Esq., High Haddens, Feversham Avenue, Bournemouth
C. Sutton, Esq., 26 St. Catherine's Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth

a short history of the home

In 1929 the Matron of a Bournemouth Nursing Home was dangerously ill and her recovery doubtful, although she was surrounded by every comfort that skill and sympathy could suggest. During this illness an appeal for help came to her from an elderly member of her profession, who was living in circumstances of unrelieved poverty. The contrast between her own security and the wretchedness of one of her own profession struck deep into her spirit and she vowed that if she recovered she would spend all her leisure time and all her strength of body, mind and spirit on the provision of homes for nurses who, because of their devotion to what was then such a badly paid profession, had been unable to save enough to provide for themselves. She did recover, and immediately set about her task, even though most people would have considered that task insurmountable.

At that time, after the First World War, inflation was having its effect on the meagre savings of the nurses. The continuation and acceleration of inflation since the Second World War has accentuated the needs of the elderly nurse. This is well illustrated by the fact that the nurse, Miss Thompson, who first had the inspiration and worked so hard for the establishment of Homes for her sisters in need, herself entered the Home in 1965. After spending three years in our Sick Bay, where her tranquility and quiet but happy acceptance of her helplessness were an example to us all, she died at Christmas 1967 at the age of 96. Her memory will remain always an inspiration to the Home.

To return to 1929, Miss Thompson, who believed that ideas should be followed by action, gathered round her a group of colleagues and members of the Medical Profession and lay friends to pioneer the scheme for this Home. Two of the most diligent workers were a Bournemouth surgeon, Mr. W. S. Richardson, and his wife. Mrs. Richardson died in 1949, but Mr. Richardson continued as Chairman of the Home until 1959. Then, at the age of 86, he became President, but he continued to take an active interest in the Home and visited it several times each week until he died in June 1968 at the age of 95. His devoted service to the Home will long be remembered.

In such a brief history it would be quite impossible to mention the names of the many people who have given long and devoted service and help to the Home since 1929, but one cannot read the full story without being deeply impressed at such a record. Particularly prominent throughout the whole period have been members of the Clerical, Medical and Banking professions, the last-named having provided us with Honorary Treasurers throughout the period. Mention, however, must be made of the names of the donors of the land on which the Home was built, the Misses Cooper-Dean, Lord Nuffield, who provided a great deal of the capital needed for completing and extending the Home, and an anonymous donor who of recent years has contributed considerable sums of money, some of which has been used to build the recent extension of eight flats.

How do you help the Home

By endowing the Home with a capital sum.

By giving a donation.

By becoming an Annual Subscriber.

Legacies are always welcomed, especially from friends who cannot subscribe regularly during their lifetime.

Trustees and administrators of discretionary and charitable funds are asked to consider the claims of this home.

We suggest subscribers consider making their payments by Banker's Order, as the saving of postage means more funds for the home.

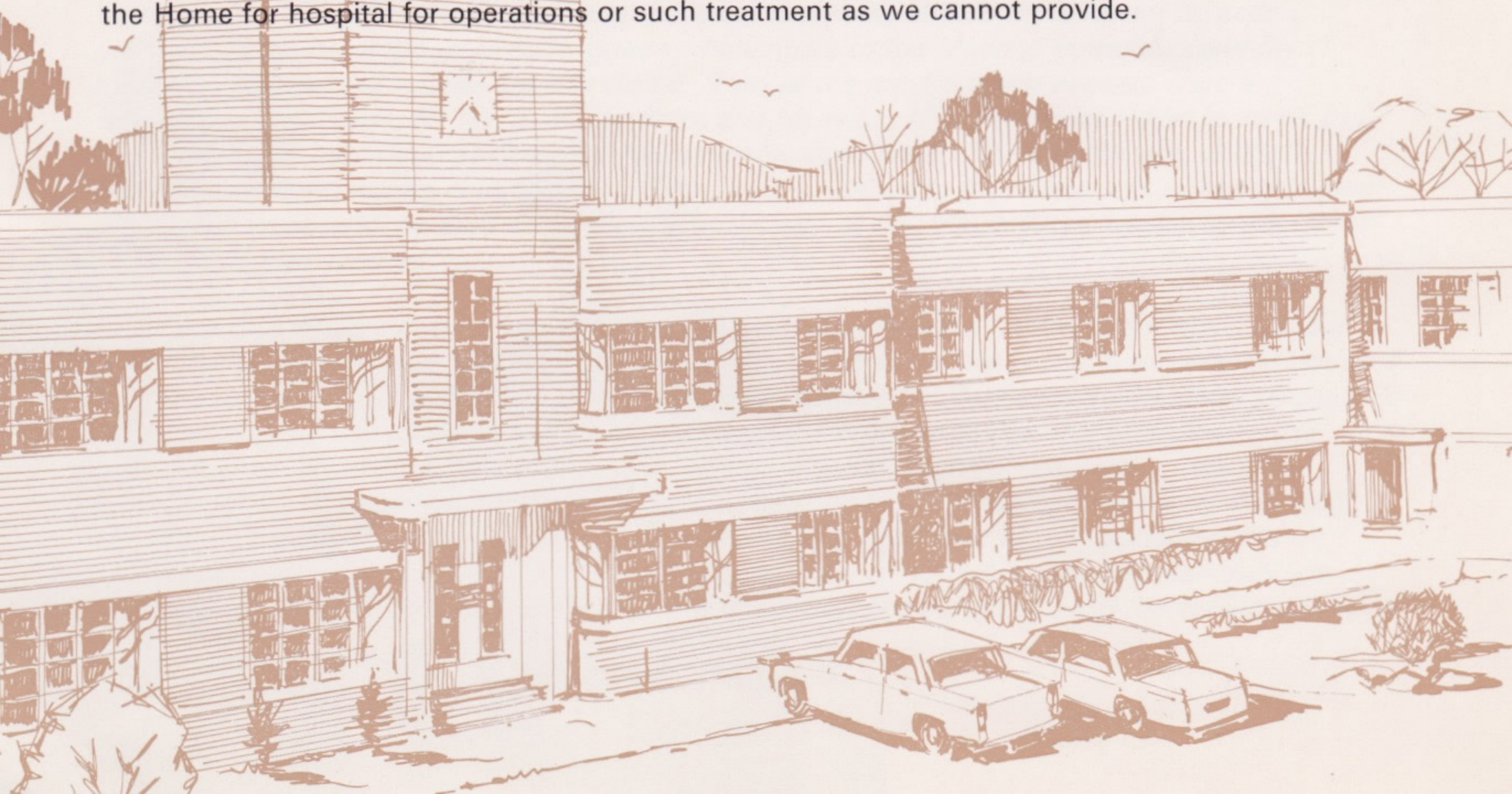
annual report

The most important happening at our Home in 1970 was the opening and occupation of our eight new flatlets. The official dedication and opening of the new extension took place on the 13th May, the ceremonies being carried out by the Bishop of Southampton and the Mayor of Bournemouth. The occupation of the flatlets had taken place during April and was a time of great happiness and thankfulness not only for the new entrants but for all of us at the Home.

We had six other entrants from normal vacancies during the year, the total figure of fourteen being by far the highest since the Home began. We were very pleased to make this good reduction of our waiting list which is still a very long one.

As we are constantly receiving questions about the Home and particularly how nurses enter it I take this opportunity of answering some of the questions. Entrance is open to any qualified nurse (S.R.N. or S.E.N.) of any nationality or religion. On application nurses are placed on a waiting list and when a vacancy occurs those longest on the list are considered first. At this stage the applicant is asked to provide particulars of her situation, her financial position, her state of health etc. It is possible of course that she may have a satisfactory home or may not wish to enter this one though this is seldom the case. Our object is to help those in most need but consideration is always given to priority on the waiting list. At the present time we have sixty in the Home—thirty two in flatlets, twenty receiving full board and lodging and eight in the sick quarters.

The special feature of our Home is the knowledge to residents that they will not be sent away when they are sick and in their declining years. They are cared for in the Home by a very adequate and qualified nursing staff and so stay to end their days here with all the loving care and comfort that can be provided. Only on the recommendation of their doctor will they leave the Home for hospital for operations or such treatment as we cannot provide.



Our endeavour is to provide both happy peaceful seclusion and also the opportunity to enter fully into community life. The common rooms—lounge, dining room, chapel etc.—as well as the beautiful gardens are open equally to the flat dwellers and those with full board and those in flats may have some of their meals in the dining room. Though we are in beautiful rural surroundings some little way out of the town we run a coach twice a week to Boscombe and Bournemouth to enable the residents to do their shopping and see the gardens and the sea.

A number of coach outings to interesting places are arranged in the summer. The cost of most of these is covered by an Outings Fund the money having been provided for this purpose by kind donors in the past but others are arranged by organisations such as the Inner Wheel. Also during the summer three Beach Huts are provided on certain days by the Bournemouth Corporation and usually two Theatre visits are arranged during the winter as well as a number of entertainments in the Home such as films and concerts with carols from local Choirs at Christmas. The residents also have their own Choir under the direction of one of themselves.

On two Sundays each month we have a Service in the Home, one being Anglican by our Honorary Chaplain and the other being Non Conformist. A Communion Service is held in our Chapel once a month and many of the residents go to the village church or their own particular one.

In June we have our Garden Fete for which a large number of the residents as well as the Matron and staff work very hard. In recent years we have raised about £500 from each Fete for the funds of the Home but even more important than the money is the spirit of happy teamwork which brings together on the day so many friends and organisations with the residents working for the good of the Home.

In these ways we endeavour and I trust achieve our object of providing a happy normal life for all our retired nurses to complete their days.

During the past year we have continued the important work of improvements in the buildings and the facilities they provide. Many such improvements have been effected and a good deal of decorations and refurnishing done. The gardens now have a new look and the provision of a heated greenhouse by kind donors facilitates the work of the gardener.

A Home such as ours could not run as smoothly efficiently and happily as it does without a very good staff and I believe we have an exceptionally good one at the present time.

We are very fortunate in having a Matron of deep understanding who is devoted to her work and a nursing staff which maintains as always the highest standards. All our domestic staff work well as a team and appear to be very happy and our present Chef achieves a near miracle in satisfying everybody whilst keeping within the budget. Our Maintanance Engineer and our Gardener hold key positions and work well as a team in the constant upkeep and improvements to the Home and Gardens.

Secretarial work has increased considerably during recent years and our three part-time Secretaries have given very devoted service for which I sincerely thank them.

I have given this fairly long report about what happens at the Home because so many questions are constantly being asked but there is a very great deal which cannot be covered here and I would say that visitors are always welcome both by the residents and staff. One thing I trust a visitor will find here is a spirit of happiness and tranquility for that is our steadfast aim.

Hugh Stewart.

Chairman.

Treasurers Report

The accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1970 have turned out more or less as your Committee expected.

It is pleasing to note that largely as a result of the increased contributions from nurses, the net cost of maintaining the Home was only £104 up on the 1969 figure, but even so the deficit was almost £13,800. I do not consider that the expenditure throughout the year gives cause for comment except to say that the Committee must continue to keep an ever watchful eye on the amount we spend on repairs, renewals and maintenance of property, furniture and equipment, for it is these items that show the largest increase on last year's figures.

Turning now to the general income and expenditure account, it is partly as a result of our disposing of our holding of British Tea Shares Trust Ordinary shares in October that the interest on our investments was £746 less than in 1969. It is also very disappointing to see that our donations and subscriptions were £1,329 down on the 1969 figure, although this may to some extent be attributable to the fact that because of office difficulties at the Home, the reports that we send out each year were despatched much later than has been the case in the past. The reports have now been posted and it is hoped that our donations and subscriptions for the current year will show a considerable increase on last year's figures.

A special word of thanks is due to all those who contributed to the success of the annual Fete, the proceeds of which amounted to £583.—an increase of £119 on 1969.

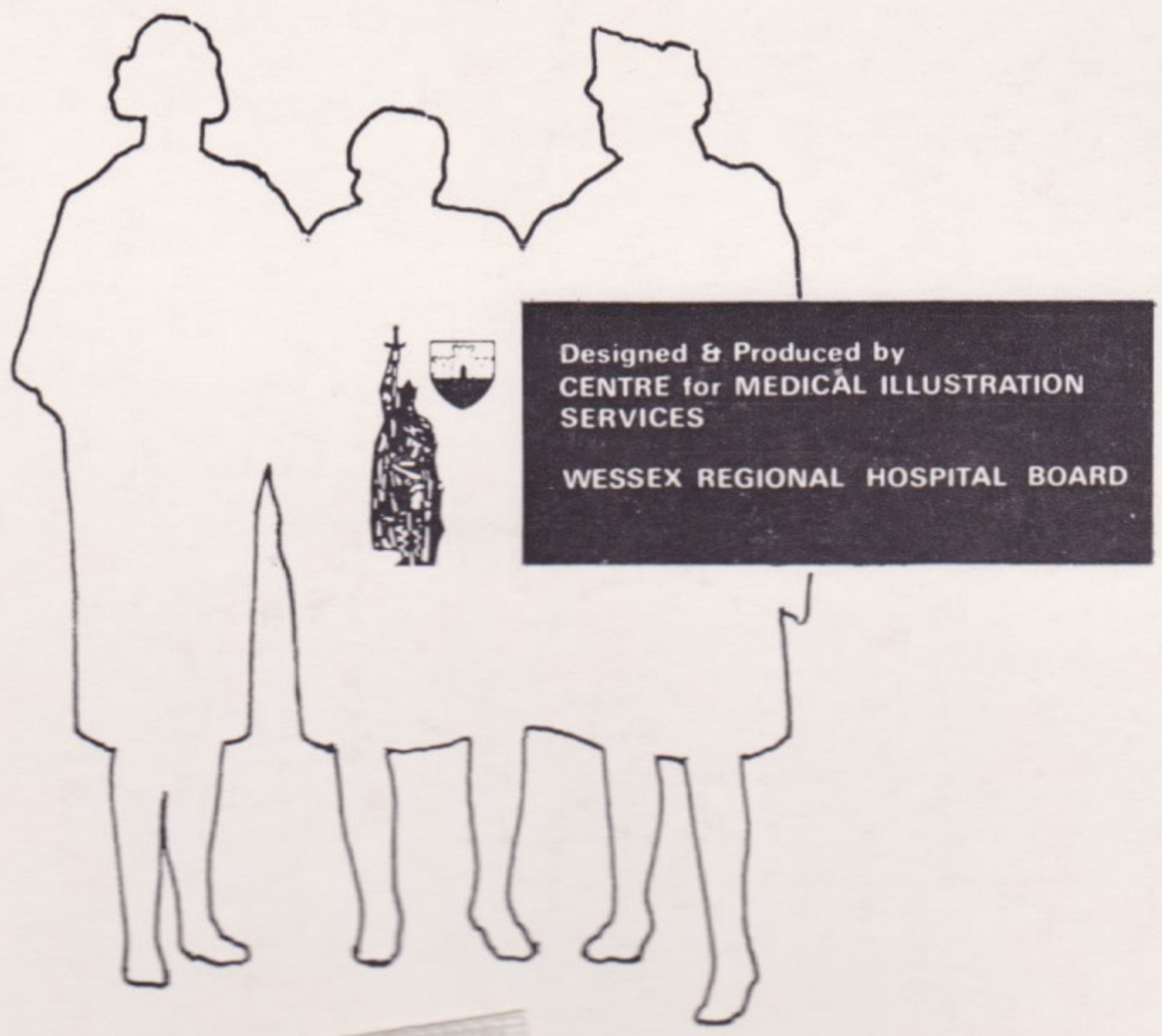
When examining the Home's Balance Sheet and in particular our capital position, it is pertinent to mention that whilst the Capital Account now stands at £130,073—an increase of £16,706 on 1969—a reduction would have been seen but for the fact that we made a profit of over £9,600 on the sale of Stourwood Lodge and the profit made on the realisation of investments during the year amounted to £9,472. A further point to be borne in mind is that the current market value of our investments as at the 31st December, 1970 was £47,363. whilst the figure incorporated in the Capital Account represents the purchase price of these investments, which was £51,200. There is, therefore, no cause for complacency in so far as the Home's capital position is concerned.

To conclude, we must as always continue to examine most closely all items of expenditure and at the same time do all we can do to bring the attention of the Home to the notice of the general public, for it is only with their support in the form of legacies, donations and subscriptions that the Home can continue to provide a home for those nurses who are in need and who so richly deserve our gratitude and help.

Mervyn K. Perry.

OBITUARY

With deep regret we record the deaths during the past year of the following nurses: Margaret Abernethy, Edith Asbury, Elizabeth Alice Bosworth, Charlotte Harries, Jane Anne Lavery, Edith Frances Mason, Catherine Bolton Roscoe.



Designed & Produced by
CENTRE for MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION SERVICES

WESSEX REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD