

*Points of View***Living Out Is Not Such An Advantage**

*Says Miss V E. DARLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M. R.M.N., R.M.P.A.
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Your editorial "Living Out and Living In" has roused me sufficiently to write this letter which I will call "Words to would-be Non-residents"!

Much is being said about the advantages experienced by the student nurse who "lives out," but very little of the disadvantages. I, personally, do not think it is reasonable to compare a student nurse, whose duties more often than not, begin at 7 a.m. and frequently finish at 8:00 p.m. with a university student whose lectures take place during "office hours"!

I think that the matron who stated that one could not be sure of the non-resident student arriving for duty was very right, and it is not at all certain that it was a reflection on the student's character. It is difficult enough to rouse young nurses for duty even when there is a great deal of noise. My memories of "pro" days remind me that every other nurse depended on someone else to "make sure she was up". In a private house one has to depend on a parent or an alarm clock (the latter almost unobtainable). Then who is to see that this young nurse has a meal before leaving for duty. She may have one if she is one of those rare people who can get up feeling like a certain advertisement looks, but who will know if she does not have that meal.

Transport, also, provides a problem. It is usually available on a week day, but underground and bus services begin so late on Sunday, that unless the nurse cycles, it often means a long walk. Pleasant in the summer, but how horrible during the dark, wet months.

It is noticeable, too, that sickness is much more prevalent amongst non-residents and this is not due to keeping resident nurses on duty when they ought to be in the sick bay. It is frequently, and I think correctly, attributed to having to stand in queues and travel in crowded buses and trains when tired, and to the extremes of temperature which the non-resident nurse experiences.

To me it seems that unless the young nurse is living at home the advantages of "living in" far outweigh those of "living out". So few restrictions exist in the majority of hospitals, that the resident nurse can compete very well with the non-resident. Late passes are nearly always available, smoking is allowed in most rooms, and more and more hospitals are providing accommodation for male visitors.

The advantages enjoyed by the resident nurse are many, e.g., unlimited supply of hot water. In how many homes is this possible? Nurses complain that they cannot run baths after a

certain hour. Well, would a parent or landlady allow other members of the household to be disturbed at all hours of the night. This also applies to radio.) Another tremendous advantage is the provision of special quarter for night nurses. What non-resident either in her own home or "digs" enjoys that peace only found on the night block. Meals are always available at regular intervals, not always interesting, but at least well-balanced. The non-resident especially when working on the shift system, tends to eat far too much fried food, resulting in gastric disturbances.

Finally, the "living out" allowance of £55 is insufficient to provide really comfortable accommodation with service, and to return after a long period of duty to a cold room that needs cleaning and with the knowledge that a meal has to be prepared and cooked, is often unpleasant.

The only real advantage of a non-resident post is the undeniable pleasure of being able to have one's friend in just when one likes, but still there are disadvantages. How careful one has to be not to make too much noise over the heads of the tenants in the flat below, to creep down the stairs so that the landlady is not disturbed, and so on and so on.

I have been both resident and non-resident, and I think I leave no one in doubt as to my preference.

The next best place to home for the young nurse, I am sure, the nurses' home.

*Also say three ex-student nurses, MISSES N. VINCE,
E. NEAL, and D. MANSBRIDGE*

On reading the suggestion in *The Nursing Mirror* that student nurses should be non-resident, we feel we should like to add our opinion the matter

Looking back on training days, we feel that half the joy was gained in relating our experiences, worries and troubles, to each other after duty.

During the blitzes, it was necessary for us to live at home for a short period, and we found that very little study was done, those outside the hospital did not, and could be expected to understand things, and we found ourselves generally outside the pulsating life of the hospital.

Somehow, it seemed that half the interest was lost, and we feel that student nurses, living out would miss so much of the happiness we enjoyed.

Reprinted from the "The Nursing Mirror".

VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY URGENT.

To the S.N.A. Units whose dues to the T.N.A.I. are not yet paid for 1945.

Will all the S.N.A. Units whose dues are outstanding, please pay them to Miss Van Vranken, Hon. Secretary, S.N.A. 20, Stanley Road, Allahabad.

Without fail before September 30th, 1946.

The money is needed and it is much overdue.

(Editor, Nursing Journal)