

## War Nurses' Memorial

(Statement by Sir Thomas Blamey)

The property at 431 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, on the corner of Arthur Street and backing on to Fawkner Park—a delightful site 200ft. x 300ft.; five minutes by tram from the city, has been purchased for the War Nurses' Memorial Centre.

In December, 1947, an Appeal was launched so that a Memorial might be established to the seventy-five gallant nurses who lost their lives during the last war. The objects of this Memorial are to provide social, residential, recreational and post-graduate education facilities for the nurses.

The nurses, both trained and in training, in the city and in the country, with the help of both men and women from every walk of life, worked very hard, and by April 6th, 1948, it was announced that £120,000 had been raised—truly a magnificent effort. On that same day it was announced that a city building was being purchased, but unfortunately a fortnight later this property was withdrawn from sale. Since then the Committee has hunted high and low for something suitable—and, here it is.

A large villa standing well back from the frontage leaves ample room for our architects to proceed with building plans, but the villa, with 20 rooms will in the meantime, provide a few of the required club facilities.

On Saturday, April 2nd, 25 nurses, leaders in their profes-

sion from all over Australia and representative of all nursing organisations, were present at a conference in Melbourne when plans were finalised for a new educational body — College of Nursing, Australia. This College is to provide post-graduate education—Ward Sisters, Sister Tutors and Administrators will be specially trained for their positions—and will fill a very great need in Australia. The War Nurses' Memorial Centre will house the newly formed College.

Thus two vital steps have been accomplished and the nursing profession is beginning to take its rightful place in the community.