

The Culvers' Staff

This number of the "Basque House News" would not be complete without special mention of the staff, without whom all the resources and aspirations of the committee would amount to nothing and the colony cease to exist.

For nearly two years we have been understaffed, but at the moment we are more favourably placed in that we now have a "team" who have common ideals and the spirit of collaboration which makes for complete harmony by unity of purpose.

Mrs Somerset, Scotswoman, with many of the characteristics of her race, is not only an efficient matron in the general sense, but also fulfils her office in a material sense. Her previous experience at Wickham Market colony has proved to be of great value in tackling the great diversity of problems to be dealt with daily and hourly in a children's home. It does need great tact, understanding and perspicacity, especially with regard to the complex nature of Spanish children. They will not mind hearing about their complexities, for they are rather proud of them, as also they are of "maytron" too.

Miss Vulliamy, resident secretary, friend and co-worker of Mrs Somerset, in this as in Wickham Market colony, shares responsibilities with all the staff in that at times she undertakes the duties of all. Her versatility is such that she is able to deputise for any member of staff if called upon. Her first-hand knowledge of Spain and the Spaniards gives adequate basis for the application of her ideals in the treatment and guidance of "los pequeños" (little ones).

Now we have Mrs Temple with us, she has joined the staff quite recently. Nurse temple takes the title from some fifteen years' experience as a nurse in general hospitals. She is responsible for the health and welfare generally of all children; she is also responsible for the children's wardrobe and bathing arrangements, but like all other members of staff is well able to deputise for any other member.

Nurse was a little startled at first by the boisterous life of a children's home, but has now become used to the children and they to her, and she has already made her weight felt, in that she has effected some changes and they are for the good of the children.

It is perhaps appropriate to speak of the remainder of the staff as the Spanish group. Mari Cruz and Pepe are much more than teachers educationally. Both are idealists in different ways and both are jealous custodians of Spanish prestige.

For three years they were the mainstay of the colony, indeed for a time they constituted our only staff helped by several senior girls then living in the colony. The children are most fortunate in having in Pepe and Mari Cruz a big brother and sister.

In common with all the other members of staff and in keeping with their sympathies, they have dedicated themselves to the welfare of a handful of refugee children, rather than to take advantage of opportunities for self advancement offered them. Their sacrifice is in itself an example for "los pequeños".

The well-being of the Home is in safe hands whilst we are able to preserve our unique team of workers, and the continuance of it assured while we retain their services.