

A New Nurses' League.

Another County Hospital League has been formed, called "The Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League," and, as it differs in some respects from the one so ably started at Southampton by Miss Mollett, it may perhaps interest some of your readers if I give a short account of its formation.

Its objects are—

- (a) To strengthen the bond of union between past and present members of the nursing staff.
- (b) To promote, so far as it can, the usefulness, honour, and interests of the nursing profession.
- (c) To keep a register of members.
- (d) To organise a Recreation Club.

In the affiliation of a Nurses' Recreation Club to the League lies the chief difference between the Leicester and the Southampton Leagues. As Miss Mollett took the Bart's League as her model, so I have taken Guy's.

In consequence of the Recreation Club there are two classes of members—associates and full members.

Associates share in all the advantages of the Recreation Club, but they have no vote in matters connected with the League, neither can they wear the badge or be entered on the Register.

I will quote the words of the provisional Constitution with regard to members:—

"All past and present members of the nursing staff who hold the Infirmary certificate, or who have held, or are holding, responsible posts in the Infirmary, and are certificated by a recognised training-school, shall be eligible, subject to the approval of the Council, for full membership, and be entitled to wear the badge of the League."

The subscription to the League was fixed at 2s. 6d. a year. The quarterly subscriptions to the Recreation Club were also decided upon.

The first meeting of the League was held on June 9th, so we are only a week old; but we started with eighty-one full members, of whom twenty-nine were able to be present. The day chosen was the one fixed for the annual distribution of prizes and certificates to the first and second year nurses who had successfully passed the examinations held in May. After that ceremony was over, I read a short statement on the objects of the League, and then one of the Hon. Physicians—Dr. Astley Clarke—made an excellent speech on the objects of the Recreation Club. He explained that it was proposed that the Club should consist of various sections, each of which should elect three representatives to serve on a general committee; that there were already two flourishing sections in existence—the library with over 450 books, and the cycling club with thirty-seven

members—and to these should be added a swimming club, a section for tennis and other games, another for entertainments, lectures, &c., in the winter, and, lastly, a cottage in the country. Two rooms only have been taken for this season, in a house a few minutes' walk from the Rothby Station, and about five miles from Leicester, to which members can go whenever they like and get "hospital tea" free. A large field, with plenty of shade, has been most kindly placed at their disposal by its owner.

Let no one suppose that a cottage is an unnecessary luxury for provincial hospital nurses until she has walked on the Leicester cobbles, when she will know, as a friend once said, how "a frog feels when it walks over a file"!

Tea followed immediately after the prize-giving, and as soon as the visitors had all gone we held the first meeting of the League. We elected the honorary officers, drew up a Constitution and By-laws—which will be reconsidered in June, 1904—decided to hold an annual general and social meeting in June, to publish a yearly journal in October, and to have a badge. If this account should meet the eye of a Leicester nurse who would like to join the League but has not received a notice—and it has not been possible to get all the notices out—I shall be very glad to hear from her.

G. A. ROGERS, President L.I.N.L.

The New Hospital for Epilepsy.

Perhaps no forms of disease are sadder than epilepsy and paralysis, or need more sorely the relief afforded by skilled attendance. We are glad therefore that after some years the little hospital for this class of sufferers which for many years did good work in Portland Terrace, Regent's Park, has now, rebuilt on an enlarged and more convenient site in Maida Vale, opened its doors to in-patients.

On Saturday last Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, visited the hospital and formally opened the building. Her Royal Highness was received by the President, the Earl of Hardwicke, and other members of the Committee. The President briefly described the history of the hospital, after which Mr. Knapp Fisher explained that the present portion of the hospital, which contains thirty-eight beds, had cost about £25,000, of which £21,800 had been provided by legacies. When the building was completed, at a cost of £8,000 or £10,000 more, there would be provision for sixty beds.

Princess Louise then said: "It gives me much pleasure to be here to-day and to declare this hospital now open."

Before leaving, the Princess with the Duke of Argyll inspected the building and expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)