

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.



The summer General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held at the Hospital on Saturday, June 24th.

The President was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Treasurer, Mrs. Dyall, presented the Financial Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

This showed that the income from subscriptions was £79 9s. 6d. The total income for the year was £90 18s. 6d. The expenses had been £72 12s. 6d., and there was a balance in hand, including the balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, of £67 18s. 8d.

The Report was adopted.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mrs. Matthews reported that the League now numbered 544, four members had resigned during the year, and one had been removed by death, Miss M. Greenhough Smith, Matron of the Blind Asylum, Bristol.

The appeal to the League for the Special Appeal Fund for rebuilding the Hospital brought in £1,550. It was decided to hand over £1,500 to the Appeal Fund Committee, for the new Nurses' Home, and to retain £50 in order to keep the account open.

It was also announced that, in acknowledgment of this donation, Miss Whitley and Mrs. Matthews, the Hon. Secretaries of the Appeal Fund, had been made Governors of the Hospital. On February 23rd they attended a General Court and received their charges in this capacity.

At an Executive Committee, held on February 16th, it was decided to send a notice of the Public Meeting of Protest, to be held against the granting of the licence of the Board of Trade to the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses to every member of the League. A protest was also sent to the Board of Trade on behalf of the League.

The adoption of the Report having been proposed and seconded, the President said she believed the League practically represented the only nurses who had representation on the Governing Body of the Hospital to which they belonged. It was unanimously agreed that a resolution of thanks in this connection should be sent to the Governors.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Miss Whitley, as Financial Secretary, then presented her report, and also that of the Special Appeal Fund, which now had £139 5s. 2d. in hand.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mrs. Matthews, as Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund, reported a balance in hand of £43 12s. 3d. The fact that no application for help from the Fund had been received during the year bore evidence to the economic stability of the members.

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The next business before the meeting being the election of President, Miss Stewart retired, and the chair was taken temporarily by Miss Musson, who explained that at the last annual meeting Miss Stewart had cast a bombshell into their midst by notifying her intention of resigning the Presidency, and that she would not seek re-election. A strong protest was made at the time, and subsequently Miss Stewart consented, if it was the general wish of the League, to offer herself for re-election. A small sub-committee appointed to deal with the matter sent out a form to each member asking her to fill in the name of the President she desired; 309 forms were returned, on 289 of which Miss Stewart was nominated. The nomination was therefore practically unanimous.

Mrs. de Segundo said that the League would lose much if it lost its President. She had given much time and thought to its welfare, and there was no one whom the members would like to welcome them to their Social Gatherings half so well. She would like formally to propose the re-election of Miss Stewart. This having been seconded, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick having supported the re-election of Miss Stewart very warmly, it was carried unanimously.

When Miss Stewart re-entered the room the Meeting rose to its feet and greeted her with prolonged and enthusiastic applause.

In accepting office, Miss Stewart said that the reasons for her retirement had been that she thought it possible the members might like someone else, and she thought that they should have the opportunity of electing another President.

She was also particularly anxious that a precedent should not be established that the Matron of the Hospital was always President of the League.

She had the interests of the League very much at heart, and therefore accepted the office, as it was the desire of the League for another three years.

ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION.

The next business was the proposed alteration of Clause V. of the Constitution. Miss Jenkins proposed that the word "Vice-Presidents" be substituted for "Vice-President."

Miss Stewart said that Mrs. Howard Marsh, owing to her absence from town, had resigned the office of Vice-President, and the Executive Committee had considered it desirable that more than one member should be nominated to act as Vice-President if necessary. Considerable discussion

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