

as once formed there was a considerable amount of business to get through. The married members were very useful in this connection. It was not advisable to change the Executive too often, as it was important to secure continuity of work.

The great principle was that all the members should be nurses. The Leagues were professional societies, but as soon as outside people were admitted an element of patronage and financial aid was introduced. In the Leagues nurses learnt how to manage their own affairs, and their professional nature was their strength.

Miss Stewart then said she had recently been consulted concerning the formation of private nurses' Leagues. She would ask Mrs. Fenwick to speak on this subject.

Mrs. Fenwick said that a League of Private Nurses, that of St. John's House, Norfolk St., Strand, an institution which had an honourable record as a pioneer in nursing matters, had already been most successfully formed, and she thought that those present would say after seeing the exhibit of this League in the Hall, that it was a most active and practical society. In regard to the formation of Leagues connected with private nursing co-operations or societies, they could quite easily be formed.

It was sometimes said of private nurses that they were mercenary; it was true that they exchanged their professional skill for money, and they specially needed professional balance to maintain the high standard so necessary in their special branch of work. She thought that in organising such a League nurses should remain for a certain time on probation, as they came from many schools, and when elected full members they should recognise that they had to fulfil some professional obligations to their colleagues. It was their duty to give as well as take.

Amongst their obligations Mrs. Fenwick enumerated the annual subscription, helping to make their Journal or report a success, joining and working for other associations such as that which was working to obtain legal status for nurses. She spoke of the benefit of affiliation with other Leagues, and of national and international co-operation, by which means their views and interest in life was extended.

DISCUSSION.

Miss Forrest, Miss Wortabet, Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Mollett, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Waind, Miss Rogers, and others took part in the discussion which followed, and Miss Eden spoke of the work of the Nurses' Social Union in Somersetshire.

Miss Mary Ware suggested that, as many hospitals had no Leagues, private nurses might form one, and Mrs. Fenwick said she would be very happy to help those in the Metropolis to do so.

The Nursing Exhibition.

INVENTIONS BY NURSES.

One of the most interesting sections at the exhibition was the table on which the inventions of nurses were exhibited.

The Women's Hospital, Birmingham.—The Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham, sent the veil worn by the nurses in the theatre and designed by the Matron, Miss Richmond, which is simplicity itself, a square of cambric with a slit for the eyes, the rest of the head being completely covered by the veil, which is tucked into the apron at the neck. The open slit is adjusted by tapes attached to the corners, which are tied at the back of the neck. Also a linen mask, to cover the lower half of the face, worn by the surgeons at that hospital. The shape is that of a crescent, an elastic being inserted at the lower edge, and loops of elastic at the horns attach it over the ears. This completely covers nose and mouth, and is simple and easily washed. From the same hospital came the linen leggings worn over the stockings by a patient for vaginal operations, and the cover for a patient on the operating table, a blanket folded in two and encased in a large pillow slip.

The Leicester Infirmary.—The Leicester Infirmary sent a very practical flannelette many tail binder for use after laparotomy. The lowest tail on each side is considerably longer than the rest in order to allow of its being taken round the opposite thigh, thus holding the binder in place. From the same institution came the flannel leggings, worn there at operations, and the overall waterproof boots worn by the surgeons when free irrigation is used.

The District Nurses' Bed-rest.—This bed-rest, designed by Miss E. R. Wortabet, attracted much attention by its simplicity, practicability and cheapness. By its means, by the clever adjustment of webbing straps passed round the rail at the foot of the bed, which join straps coming from the shoulders to which buckles are attached, a patient can raise herself into a sitting posture or lower herself at will. The straps in each case are attached to a soft pad, which covers the back and so keeps the patient warm when sitting up in bed. Miss Wortabet also sent an obstetric binder.

The District Nurses' Steriliser.—Another very practical exhibit was the District Nurses' Steriliser, sent by Miss Böge, Superintendent of Queens' Nurses at Shoreditch. The lamp packs inside the steriliser, the feet double under it, and the whole, which is large enough

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)