

## The Nurses' Missionary League.

The Annual Conference of the Nurses' Missionary League was held throughout the day at University Hall, Gordon Square, on Wednesday, 8th inst. It is very noticeable each year how the interest in the League, and consequently the attendance at these annual gatherings, increases. In the morning the chair was taken by Miss Fairfield, and addresses were given by Miss E. Theodora Fox, of Bangalore—who was trained at the Middlesex Hospital—on the duties of missionary nurses, and Mrs. Summerhayes, from Quetta, trained at Her Majesty's Hospital, Stepney Causeway, spoke on the great need of nurses in India. In the afternoon Miss Swift, Matron of Guy's Hospital, was announced to speak on "A Nurse's High Vocation," but as she was unable to be present, Miss Fox again spoke, and made an earnest appeal to nurses, whose vocation she said was to work not only for, but with, Christ. She illustrated her point by describing a carpenter's shop in the East, where the master works with his pupils, and when the work becomes too difficult for them, takes it out of their hands, and does some of it himself. Service with Christ she said involved two things, to be in sympathy with Him and to know more and more of His mind.

Miss Mackenzie, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, spoke of its need for nurses. In every case in which nurses had broken down in the Mission Hospitals of this Society it was because they were understaffed.

Often nurses only had the native probationers to depend upon for help, which meant that they got no real rest day or night. There was a need, however, not only for nurses, but for funds to support them, which limited their number, but posts were always waiting for those who could go at their own charges. She invited any nurses who desired to know more of the Society's work and methods to call on the Secretary, Women Work Department of the S.P.G., Tufton Street, Westminster.

Miss Cooper gave a very interesting account of the work in Lo-nguóng City, Foochow. She spoke of the deep impression made by the work of Miss Flora Lamb, a Guy's trained nurse. It was only of two years' duration, as she was drowned when bathing, while on sick leave, but her nursing knowledge had gained an entrance for her into the house of the local Mandarin, whose wife was seriously ill, and it was difficult to estimate the far reaching results of this. A tremendous impression was also made by Miss Lamb providing the skin grafts for two poor women with ulcerated legs. At the memorial service held after her death the native catechist reminded his hearers how Miss Lamb had "given her body" for her Chinese patients. Miss Cooper also spoke of the difficulties connected with training Chinese nurses. An Englishwoman would undertake any work for the benefit of her patient, as a matter of course, but Chinese women had a hard time when they did

menial work, and until they were Christians they would not do it.

Miss de Lasalle, Secretary of the League for the North, described its organisation, after which tea was served and the meeting broke up into friendly groups.

At the evening session the Chairman was Mr. McAdam Eccles, M.S. In moving the adoption of the Report, he called attention specially to the summer camp for nurses held last June, and to the great advance in the work of the League in the provinces. In proposing the election of the new Committee for the forthcoming year, he voiced the general pleasure at the fact that the Bishop of Durham had consented to act as President, and that the name of Miss Gill, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, had been added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

The first speaker, Dr. F. Johnson, who appeared in the native costume of the Arab, gave a vivid account of medical mission work in Arabia. He pointed out how that great land is practically closed to mission work; there being only some half-dozen mission-stations, all situated on the coast, and forming a fringe round the interior where no Christian can enter for fear of death. The greatest power in such lands is the *medical* mission, and Dr. Johnson said that at his hospital at Baghdad, which has only 25 beds, patients come from very long distances, sometimes many days' journey. The nursing question is simplified by the fact that the patients' friends always come too, and insist on tending them; sometimes a useful, but never an ideal proceeding!

Miss de Lasalle spoke of her recent tour round 36 hospitals in Scotland and the North of England; and then the Rev. Canon Walpole, Rector of Lambeth, gave the closing address. He dwelt on the way in which God propagates His Gospel through human agents; and pointed out how it is the *life* that tells, not what we *do* but what we *are*. A holy life has in it something which takes possession of men unawares by its beauty, its rarity, its superiority, and its power.

### A NATIONAL SLEEPING SICKNESS BUREAU IN LONDON.

The British Government has decided to take independent action regarding the sleeping sickness by establishing a National Sleeping Sickness Bureau with headquarters in London. The British National Bureau will be managed by a strong committee. Annual grants will be made by the Imperial and Sudanese Governments. To combat the sleeping sickness Great Britain and Germany are concluding a Convention on the subject of joint measures for the prevention of the malady in Uganda and German East Africa. This is expected to be signed at an early date.

A correspondent of the *Morning Post* points out the terrible nervous strain undergone by Government officials working in districts in Uganda where sleeping sickness is rife, and suggests that more liberal leave should be given them.

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