

The chief features in the recent work of the Nurses' Missionary League were described in the afternoon by Miss J. Macfee, and in the evening by Miss H. Y. Richardson. They told of greater activity than ever before, greater interest in the hospitals, and increased numbers not only of members but of enquiries about work in the mission field. Two members—Miss Grist and Miss Dawson-Wilkes—had sailed during the summer for Africa; sixteen members had recently been able to return to their stations in various parts of the mission-field; and twenty-two members were waiting to go out as recruits as soon as permission could be obtained. Both these speakers—and also Major McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (T.), chairman of the evening meeting—dwelt upon the great need and the many openings there will be for nurses in distant lands when the war is over and "demobilization" takes place.

Although there were no nurses among the speakers, the plea for nurses in far-off lands was perhaps more forcibly voiced by Miss C. Sharp (of Sarawak) and Miss Baker (of Uganda), both of whom, though untrained, had been forced into doing a nurse's work abroad. Miss Sharp told of the mother of three days who lay on bare planks in a small smelly room—the best "hospital" the place could boast; of the little child dying of small pox in the midst of her family; of another little child once thought to be deaf and dumb and covered with sores and bruises, but now cured and a helper in the school; of the woman dying and holding her hands when all her relatives fled. Each one she had tried to help—she, a teacher—and, as she said, "I apologize to you for doing it, but you were not there to do it for them!" And Miss Baker told of her station, with a population of half-a-million, with no doctor, no nurse, and how on itinerating tours as many as a hundred a day would crowd round seeking physical help, and dependent upon her and her few simple drugs for all the help they could get. Often the only way to reach them is by giving bodily aid, and the opportunities before a nurse in these lands are incalculable. Miss Baker struck a deeply impressive note as she dwelt upon the text, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone"; and a similar note was also sounded in the closing addresses of the afternoon and evening gatherings, when Miss Ellis spoke of the great and glorious task that lies before those who have known the Light; and Archdeacon Sharp dwelt upon the response of men and women to the challenge of the Kingdom of God.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

There was a large and representative gathering of the nursing profession in and around Hull at a meeting held on October 5th, at the Swanland Club, to meet Miss Rimmer, Hon. Organising

Secretary of the Union. Miss C. A. Little, Superintendent of the Hull Trained Nurses' Association, presided, and, in the course of a telling speech dwelt on the fact that the most important steps taken in the direction of organisation was taken twenty-five years ago, when they, in the face of strong opposition and nobly supported by H.R.H. Princess Christian, obtained for the British Nurses' Association the Royal Charter with which Association the National Union of Trained Nurses was affiliated. Miss Rimmer, in the course of her address, outlined some of the National schemes for reconstruction, as shown in the new Education Bill, the proposed Ministry of Health, Infant Welfare Work, &c., and emphasised the need for reconstruction in the nursing profession, and claimed that this could only be efficiently secured by the united efforts of the nurses themselves. In order to do this there must be self-organised societies with freedom of criticism, because, even when the much-needed State Registration Bill was passed, the administration of the law would be of great importance. This principle, she said, was embodied in the State Registration Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration for Nurses, which had federated all the Trained Nursing Societies which had promoted the organisation of Nursing by the State, and which would continue their progressive work for "registered nurses." Miss Rimmer took exception to the autocratic bill proposed by the College of Nursing, Ltd., particularly to their provision for the keeping of supplementary registers of special and partially-trained nurses which would entirely nullify the value of the register of the fully-trained nurse.

We learn that Miss Rimmer's visit to Hull was greatly appreciated, and that she has left behind her much sound information, which should be productive of action in support of professional and free organisation amongst nurses in Hull—uncontrolled by lay interference and social patronage.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY A DUTY.

It has been decided to form a "London Centre" of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and Miss Biggar, Sister St. Thomas' Hospital, has been appointed Hon. Secretary. There should now be no excuse for nurse members failing to have placed in their hands: (1) A copy of the Constitution, an agreement to conform to which the majority have signed *without seeing it*; (2) A copy of the Registration Bill promoted by the College, concerning which they have never been consulted. We call upon them to have this Bill explained to them, not only by their officials who drafted it but by members of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, which promoted legislative reform for nurses and drafted a just Bill, when most of the College Council were actively opposing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)