

She hoped that the League now formed would, amongst other things, be the means of knitting up old friendships which had sometimes dropped, only surely for lack of opportunities of meeting. But the League was not only for pleasure, but also for profit, and she desired to impress upon the members that in associating themselves together they were assuming a great responsibility. They were nearly all of them the certificated nurses of this great hospital, and in the future, when nursing matters were under discussion, the dictum of so important a Society could not be lightly passed over.

Secondly, she wished to point out that there must be unity in their action. All Associations of nurses in the past had not got on excellently well. In the League there might and would be differences, but they must avoid disagreement.

Further, if the League succeeded, as it must succeed, the other great training schools must follow suit, and organize similar Societies. Great responsibility, therefore, devolved upon this first League, and she desired to emphasise this point. At the same time, she felt sure that, in the fulfilment of their duty, they would find the pathway of pleasure.

Miss Stewart then read letters of regret from members who were unable to be present.

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

She then explained that the Hon. Secretary of the Provisional Committee, Miss Cox-Davies (Sister Faith), had been appointed a member of the nursing staff of the Portland Hospital, and was leaving for South Africa almost immediately. Miss Sleigh (Sister Lucas) had undertaken her duties, and she therefore called upon her to read the Report of the Provisional Executive Committee.

The adoption of the Report, which was carried unanimously, was moved by Sister Mark, and seconded by Sister Casualty.

THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution was then considered and, after full discussion, amended as follows:—

1. The Association shall be called "The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses."

The objects of the League shall be:—

(a) By union, to encourage the Members to maintain a high standard of work and conduct.

(b) For mutual help and pleasure.

(c) To promote the establishment of a Fund for the relief of former nurses of the Hospital who are in distressed circumstances and need either temporary or permanent help.

3. The qualification for membership shall be the certificate of the Hospital.

4. Within six months from the foundation of

the League—that is until the 4th of June, 1900—the Members in general meeting assembled, or the Executive Committee, may elect as Members of the League any nurses who, although not holding the certificate, have filled, or are filling, positions of responsibility in the Hospital.

5. The League shall be governed by an Executive, which will manage the business of the League, and will present a Report and a Financial Statement at the Annual Meeting of its Members. This Committee will also, when necessary, enquire into and lay before the Members any case of misconduct which may come under its notice.

6. The Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 12 other Members, all of whom, on the occasion of the first election, shall be appointed for a term of three years. At the end of that period the Members generally shall consider and determine whether any modification shall be made in the tenure of those offices. During the first three years, any vacancy occurring amongst the foregoing Members (except the office of President) shall be filled up by the remaining Members of the Committee. The President shall always be chosen by the Members of the League in General Meeting assembled.

7. The Annual Subscription shall be 2s. 6d.

8. There will be an Annual Meeting for the transaction of business, and at least two Social Gatherings.

9. There will be a half-yearly Journal, published for at least two years, containing a list of Members, with their addresses and official positions. Members would be at liberty to send literary contributions or such details of their career as would be interesting to the League. It will be sold at a cost which will cover expenses.

In discussing the question of the Journal, Miss Stewart pointed out that the expense, as well as the trouble of publishing a Journal, would be considerable. It was trouble which the Committee were quite willing to undertake if the Members desired, but she hoped that they would not vote for it unless they meant to give the Journal their hearty support. The question of expense having been raised, Miss Polden, Assistant Matron at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, said that at this institution the nursing staff published a journal every three months with a circulation of 80 copies, which paid its way at 6d. a copy.

The Constitution having been adopted, Mrs. Spencer said it devolved upon her to propose that the League should ask Miss Stewart to honour them by becoming one of its Members. It had been founded upon her initiative, and its success was due to her. When Miss Stewart came to the Hospital, she found already a high standard of work and discipline; splendid work

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