

largely by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, and *we* have taken up the private nursing branch of work; but I believe that it is true to say that there is plenty of life left in the House, and certainly our high standard of work and conduct is still maintained. One of the marks of this advancing age seems to be *co-operation*, and we find leagues and associations springing up in all directions. The reason, I suppose, is that everyone is realizing that all true strength springs from *union*. "Unity is strength," as the old saying goes. In forming our Association, we are following in the lead of the great Hospital of St. Bartholomew, which has been the first of the nursing schools to form a League for its members; it is apparently a great success, and from the Honorary Secretary we have received cordial help and advice.

We are forming a League of St. John's House Nurses, in the desire that it may be of mutual help and benefit to all who join it. It is hoped that it will prove a link between the present members of the staff and those who have left us—may we not say "the missing link," for which we have so often longed, when we have experienced the difficulty of keeping in touch with many who have gone out from the House to wider spheres and whom it is so easy to lose sight of without some such common bond—so I trust that the League will prove to be the means of knitting up old friendships by giving opportunities of meeting for the mutual exchange of thought and experience, besides for social enjoyment. It will also form a link between members of the House who have never met, but who have yet a common bond in being graduates of the same school.

There are two great objects set before us for the *raison d'être* of our League.

First, to keep up a high standard of ethics in the nursing profession, and next for mutual help and pleasure. *Work* in the first place, for we pledge ourselves to promote in every way we can the many interests of our profession, and this implies—nay, involves—real hard work; that we will never spare ourselves in the cause, never be content with anything less than the highest. And pleasure follows, for there is no pleasure so real as that which comes to fellow-workers in the self-same cause when they can meet together and *feel*, as well as *speak*, of the joy which comes from united co-operation in the same work.

Now we will proceed to a scheme of the Association, and a short history of its commencement.

The first informal meeting was held early in last January, when it was agreed that the formation of such a League should be attempted, after which a circular and form of application for membership was sent to past and present mem-

bers of St. John's House, and at the present time (June 15th) 60 members are now enrolled.

A sum of £6 15s. has been received in subscriptions, etc.; £1 2s. 6d. has been spent in printing and postage, leaving a balance in hand of £5 12s. 6d.

On the motion of Chairman the name of "The League of St. John's House Nurses" was adopted. She then said:—

"I will now lay before you a draft of the proposed constitution for your consideration and criticism. You will notice that we propose to have a large Executive Committee, for on account of so many members being engaged in private nursing we are of necessity a very fluctuating body, but we hope that out of 10 members, besides the honorary officers, we shall be able to collect at least four, which number we propose for a quorum.

The proposed constitution was then read. Each clause was then proposed and seconded, and afterwards discussed and put to the meeting. Some clauses were carried as they stood, others were amended, and the debate throughout was keen. The Constitution finally adopted was then proposed *en bloc* by Miss Laura Baker, seconded by Mrs. Day and carried unanimously.

THE CONSTITUTION.

1. The Society shall be called "The League of St. John's House Nurses."

2. The objects of the League shall be:—

(a) By union to elevate and strengthen our Profession by endeavouring to maintain a high standard of work and conduct.

(b) To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for British Nurses.

(c) To promote the usefulness and honour; the financial and other interests of the Nursing Profession.

(d) For mutual help, sympathy and pleasure.

3. The qualification for membership shall be a certificate of three years' training, after examination in a general hospital of not less than 50 beds.

4. The Members in General Meeting assembled; or the Executive Committee may, within two years from the foundation of the League (till June 1903), elect as members of the League any Nurses who, although not holding a three years' certificate, have filled posts of responsibility for the House.

5. The Honorary Officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; who shall be *ex-officio* members of all committees.

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of 10 members who shall carry on the business of the Society, and shall organize such meetings and conferences as it shall be decided to hold.

7. The Honorary Officers and Executive Committee shall, on the occasion of the first Election, be appointed for a term of three years, and afterwards for such periods as the League shall hereafter determine. During the first three years any vacancy occurring amongst the foregoing members shall be

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