

WHERE WE WOMEN COME IN.

Women do not in any number take their rightful position on Boards of Trustees and Committees of Hospitals in the States, any more than they do at home. Boards of women to control externe nursing schools, boards of women forming sub-committees, to deal with nursing and domestic matters in connection with hospitals, are common all over the States. Such boards may have been necessary in the past, before nursing schools were organized, under the immediate control of thoroughly trained, educated gentlewoman and their capable assistants, but they are somewhat anomalous and out of date now. The school curriculum, the domestic department, are now clearly defined, and expert officers placed in charge of them, the work, therefore, which used to come within the scope of "Board ladies," is now incorporated in an orderly system, and falls under the management of the Superintendent of Nurses and House-keeper. Not for a moment would I underestimate the value of women on the sub-committees of hospitals, and other public institutions, wherever placed their public work is thorough and progressive, but Miss Louisa Stevenson, of Edinburgh, has laid it down—and the opinion of no woman in the world is of greater value—that hospital committees to be most effective should be composed of men *and* women, and I am entirely in sympathy with her views. Women are held in such deep respect and tenderness by men in the United States of America, that they have only to ask and have, and as soon as they realise that the old order of management is no longer necessary, they will suggest its abolition, and in their right royal and irresistible way place themselves on General Boards of Management. The American man is a child of nature and a philosopher. Somehow he has grasped the fundamental law of Nature, that, together with the woman, evolution is possible; without her, well—"a man don't require to be much of a mathematician anyway, to count the last trump."

E. G. F.

Marriage Bells,

A large number of nurses of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, recently assembled at the Home, Upper Baggot Street, to present Miss Olive Mason (one of their number) with a handsome silver tea service as a token of their esteem and affection on her approaching marriage. The presentation was made by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, in the dining hall, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. Mrs. Treacy spoke of Miss Mason's connection with the institution, and the regret that she and the nurses felt at parting with her. The nurses were entertained at supper by the Lady Superintendent. A most enjoyable evening was spent, dancing being kept up till a late hour.

The Bart.'s League.

The winter social gathering of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, which took place on Saturday last was a most pleasant function. It was held in the Medical Library, and rarely, we imagine, has a happier gathering taken place within its walls. Genial as ever, the President, Miss Isla Stewart, received the members who mustered in force, and tongues wagged fast while old friendships were renewed and old days discussed. The little alcoves, which are formed by the arrangement of the bookcases, made cosy corners where tea, and the other good things offered in abundance, could be discussed, and, over the hum of voices and the tinkle of teacups strains of charming music were wafted—music of so high an order that indeed it deserved the sole attention of those present, only there was so much to say and only a limited time to say it in.

Mrs. Howard Marsh presided at the piano, and with her usual charm accompanied her sister, Miss Dalrymple Hay, who played delightfully on the violin. Miss Wates also contributed much to the pleasure of the afternoon by her excellent music. Among those present were several of the Buffalo Delegates, and notable amongst them was Miss McGahey. We also noticed Mrs. Watson, R.C.C., home from India, Miss Cutler, on leave from Cairo, and many other old friends too numerous to mention, for the League now numbers 410 members, many of them holding important positions in the nursing world, and as nearly half of this number was present, to enumerate all is impossible.

Scraps of interesting news were wafted about—that the Colonial Nursing Association was making great progress—that it was actually sending nurses to the Falkland Isles, that Miss Sisley, in spite of past opposition, was really nursing at Khartoum, that, in fact, wherever Britons fall sick, there, sure enough, the energetic trained nurse will soon be on their track.

Nevertheless, we missed Mrs. Walter Spencer, the indefatigable, capable, and kindly Hon. Secretary, who was unable to be present, and many regrets were expressed at her absence. There was but one opinion, however, about the gathering, namely, that it was a great and unqualified success, and the members said goodbye at last reluctantly. To our next merry meeting!

People who are happy are generally charitable to the less fortunate, and so it came to pass that just a thought was spared to the nurses of other schools which at present have no Leagues. "How much they miss," and "when will they be able to meet old friends as we do?" May the day soon come!

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