

Miss Mollett, President of the Royal South Hants League of Nurses, Mrs. Groves, Local Hon. Secretary for Bristol, and others.

The Conference on the afternoon of Thursday, May 29th, and the meeting in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses, are open to the General Public. Tickets for the Conference on Thursday, May 29th, may be had on application to Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council, 7, Marlborough House, High Street, Marylebone, London, W., and for the State Registration Meeting on application to the Hon. Secretary, *pro tem*, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

The League of St. John's House Nurses.

A general meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses was held at St. John's House, Norfolk Street, Strand, on Saturday last, when there was a good attendance of members.

The President was in the chair, and delivered the following address:—

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our third meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses.

Since our inaugural meeting nearly a year ago our members have increased from sixty-eight to eighty-seven, and I hope they will continue to rise in number.

As the April *News* is, I hope, now in the possession of you all, you will know all the recent events of interest to the League; and you will have seen how we made our first public step with regard to the Midwives Bill. To-day, as we have a very full Agenda, I will not keep you long. I hope very much that the self-instruction scheme will be very fruitful in good results, and that many members will join it, besides saying that they approve of, and wish it success! I am sure it is worth every effort to endeavour to keep our minds and brains from either becoming absorbed with one subject, i.e., that of our profession, which tends to make us narrow-minded, or allowing them to become rusty altogether. A great thinker once said that every day a man should read a beautiful poem, hear a beautiful piece of music, and see a beautiful picture; this may not be within our power for every day, but it may certainly be within the range of our aspirations.

Two or three friends have most kindly helped us in the way of suggestions, and with promises of setting papers, etc., so I hope many members will respond warmly.

There is just one more point I would bring before you to-day, and it is this: by our constitution, we pledge ourselves "to elevate" and

strengthen our profession by endeavouring to maintain a high standard of work and conduct . . . and also "to promote the usefulness and honour of the nursing profession." Our minds are stirred at the present time by the papers in the current issues of the "Nineteenth Century," on "A Case against Hospital Nurses," for, whilst allowing for much exaggeration and great misknowledge on the part of the writer, still there is much in that April paper which every nurse will do well to read carefully over, and ponder upon with searchings of heart to see whether in any of these details she may have helped to lower her profession in the eyes of the world. Talking over "cases," how easy it is to err in this direction, in considerateness in a household which is probably already out of gear owing to the illness perhaps of the principal member, etc.

That the writer takes a one-sided view of the case is manifest, for many are the opposite instances, for example, where a nurse has been dreaded in a household, and yet after a short stay there is the most real sorrow at her departure—but is it always so?

True it is that a great deal is expected of nurses. I was told only the other day by a doctor who wanted a nurse, "it will require some one with a temper like an angel for such a difficult invalid," but just *because* the pedestal upon which the profession has been in latter days placed is so high, shall we not do our utmost to keep it in its place, and to uphold its old traditions! The fact that much is expected of us is—surely—an impetus to us to rise up to these great expectations! With increased knowledge, better training, and all the modern developments of science and medical skill and general "up-to-date-ness," do not let it be "out of date" to adhere to the old-fashioned aims of the nurse in earlier days, but, as in the words of the prayer we so frequently use, "Let each one seek to serve and minister to the sick with entire devotion, deep humility, unwearied zeal, patience, gentleness, and charity, in the spirit of faithfulness, obedience, and love."

THE SELF INSTRUCTION SCHEME.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the first item on the Agenda, the formation of a "Self-Instruction Scheme," was discussed. The desirability of adopting such a scheme had been previously suggested in the *League News*, and the members had come prepared to discuss it.

It was agreed that three groups should be formed of subjects to be studied, and that members should be invited to join one or more of these. Further, that those who did so should pledge themselves to give at least one hour's study

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