

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.



The Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital looks its best upon the occasion of the meeting of its Nurses' League, and on Saturday last the Annual Business Meeting of this Society took place under most auspicious circumstances. Even the sun, stranger of late, elected to shine, and lighted up the pictures of celebrities which find place on the fine old wainscotted walls, and smiled upon the eager faces of the nurses who, bound together by the strong tie which unites those who have a common training school, met together for professional and social purposes.

The members came from far and near, and, at three o'clock, Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of the Hospital, and President of the League, took the chair and was warmly greeted by the meeting. The Chairman expressed her great pleasure at once more welcoming the members. The meeting would be glad to know that amongst those present were Miss Banfield, Superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, and Chairman of the Course in Hospital Economics, Teachers' College, Columbia University; and Miss Lucy Walker, Superintendent of Nurses at the Presbyterian Hospital in the same city and President of the Philadelphia County Nurses' Association, who last year, on the occasion of her visit and that of Miss Waind—delegate of the League—to America, showed them every kindness and hospitality.

The meeting that day was a very important one and there was much business to be got through. So far, the work of the Society had been managed by the Executive which, on the foundation of the League, had been appointed for three years. That term had now passed, and passed very quickly, and the duty of the League was now to appoint a new Executive. The Constitution adopted had been left open to revision at the end of three years, and there were certain alterations in the Bye-laws to be considered. A still more important item on the agenda was the consideration of alternative benevolent fund schemes. As President, she would only say in relation to these schemes, that she would support and further the interests of whichever scheme the meeting chose. She then called upon Mrs. Spencer to read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, then presented the Financial Report. The balance-sheet showed that at the close of the financial year there was a balance at the bank of £55 18s. 10d. The

Benevolent Fund had a balance in hand of £12 8s. 3d.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Spencer, then read the Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT.

I have to report that since June 29th, the date of the last General Meeting, forty-four new members have joined the League, the total number now being 425. The Winter Social Gathering was held as usual in December. The use of the Medical School Library was kindly granted for the occasion by Dr. Calvert, the warden, to whom our thanks are due. In September Miss Waind, representing the League, attended the Nursing Congress at Buffalo, and her report of the proceedings was published in the November number of the *News*. We regret to record that in February two of our number passed away. Nurse Maria Pitt was known to all of us and was universally liked and respected; she had served the hospital faithfully for twenty-nine years. Nurse Helen Buckland, who had not long finished her training, succumbed after a few days' illness to an acute attack of pneumonia. We have also heard that Miss Webster, who went out to South Africa, died about a year after her arrival there. As the time, namely, three years, for which the present Executive was elected will end in October it is now necessary at this meeting to proceed to the appointment of the new committee and hon. officers. The retiring members are Mrs. Hayward, Miss Smedley, Miss McLeod, Miss Mollett, Sister Mark, Sister Ophthalmic, Sister Surgery, Mrs. Andrews, the hon. treasurer, and Mrs. Spencer, the hon. secretary.

The names of the ladies who have kindly consented to be nominated for election to the new Executive will be submitted to you presently. The Executive Committee has reconsidered the Constitution and Bye-laws, and recommends some slight alterations and additions for adoption or otherwise at this meeting. The President and Miss Musson (Sister Luke) respectively are now editor and sub-editor of the *News*, and we may rest content that under their able guidance the interest will be well maintained.

In forwarding annual subscriptions a considerable number of members forgot to enclose the 1s. due for the *News*. As the latter is our chief item of expenditure the publication would be impossible were this to continue. We therefore propose that in future the annual subscription shall be 3s. 6d., this sum to include the *News*.

In conclusion, I would beg all members to make a point of sending their subscriptions each year, either on, or as soon after, November 1st as convenient. If this is done the work of the Secretary will be lessened, notices of reminder will not be needed, and it will also enable the Treasurer to have always a satisfactory balance in hand.

Both the Financial and the Annual Report were adopted.

THE ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

Mrs. Spencer then said that as the President could not propose herself for election, it fell to her lot to do so. Only the Hon. Secretary could fully realise the time and work which Miss Stewart had devoted to the League, and how she had given her whole heart and mind to make it a success. She

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