

like manner, in the future, as a means of "mutual help, sympathy, and pleasure."

May we not link these ideas together in some tangible form?

(1) Each time we glance at our *badge* and read its motto we should realise how our unity, both in professional matters and in daily life, is a "mutual help." Also in the "inner wheels" of our League machinery we have our different societies to further this end—such as the Debating Society and the self-instruction scheme.

(2) Can we not look upon our *St. John's House News* as a link in the chain of sympathy, for it travels round the globe with its tidings of the old training-school, and many are the items of interest we read in its pages of what our friends are doing? Here I would specially thank those members who have most kindly contributed such interesting letters and papers to it.

(3) Surely our meetings and social gatherings offer us good opportunities for enjoyment by enabling us to meet with old familiar friends, and also to make fresh acquaintances, and thus to enlarge our boundaries. In these and various ways our bond of union will find scope in which sympathy may be shown and pleasure shared. We must not, however, be content to remain only in our own narrow circle, but be ready to give the right hand of fellowship to all similar Leagues and associations. Each one has its own special organisation, its particular aims, its likenesses, and its dissimilarities. Some may be more in harmony with one than with the other, but we are all striving after the same ultimate end, and so we should embrace every opportunity for meeting together, and for enlarging our horizons by genial exchange of thought and intercourse, being ready to learn from each and all in ever-increasing catholicity.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Hon. Secretary and confirmed.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Hon. Secretary then presented the following report:—

It is with much pleasure I have to report the satisfactory progress of our League during the past year, and, although we have not done great things, yet I think we have fully justified our existence.

Since reporting to you last November, our numbers have increased by twenty-seven new members; one member, Nurse A. E. Taylor, has been taken from us by death, making our total number of members ninety-five. I had hoped that before this report was presented we should have made our "century," but we must believe that as our growth is slow it will also be sure.

The most important addition to our ranks is undoubtedly that of Mrs. Grace Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums of New Zealand, not alone because of her high position, but very especially because she has been mainly instrumental in obtaining State Registration for nurses in that Colony.

Of the steps taken by your Executive Committee during the past year, perhaps the most important was the Resolution on the Midwives' Bill which was forwarded to Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., in which we emphasised the necessity of retaining the notification clauses during the Committee stage, and of appointing at least one midwife upon the Midwives' Board. The Bill has since become law, and it is satisfactory to report that the notification clauses have been retained, but the constitution of the Board remains the same.

A Delegates' Fund has been formed, and a small sum has been put aside to form a nucleus. Contributions to swell this fund will naturally be gratefully received.

In connection with our League a self-instruction scheme has been formed which embraces Botany, Literature, and French. At present the numbers belonging to each group are small, and it is hoped that many more members will join before the end of the year. It is so very important that everyone, especially nurses, whose work is so very absorbing, should not become entirely absorbed by their work; and it behoves each one of us to have at least one big interest outside her profession. It was with this end in view that the self-instruction scheme was started, and we most sincerely hope that all members who have their League at heart will show their appreciation by joining one or more groups, and do their best to make the scheme a huge success by working diligently and not being members in name only.

In May last a Society was formed for the purpose of obtaining State Registration for Trained Nurses, and as that is one of the objects of our League it was thought that our best method of forwarding that object and showing our sympathy was by giving a yearly subscription to the funds of that Society. This has been done, and at the last meeting of the Provisional Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses a resolution of thanks to the League of St. John's House Nurses was unanimously passed.

The third number of *St. John's House News* has just appeared, and I am sure all will unite with me in complimenting (and thanking) the Editors upon the bright and interesting contents. It is hoped that every member will subscribe for it regularly, as that is the most practical manner in which we can show our grateful appreciation of the labours in our behalf bestowed by the Editors upon our journal and for the advancement of our League.

Judging from the number of badges sold it is quite evident that some of our own members have not yet invested in this visible sign of membership, and we sincerely urge all those who have neglected this very important item to rectify the omission as soon as possible.

New forms of application, and also the constitution and by-laws, have been printed; all members may have copies on applying to the President. I have also much pleasure in reporting that in June last an invitation was sent to me from the Secretary of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses for their social gathering, which I accepted, but was unfortunately prevented from keeping. This probably seems a small thing, but these little courtesies tend to draw League to League, and year by year, as we grow, will, we hope, bind all nurses together, so that in the near future we shall find that we have the strength which unity alone can

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