

We have, therefore, been in full working order for rather more than a year, and I can honestly say that the undertaking has been a success. I do not find my nurses less patriotic than those of the large London hospitals; wherever they are scattered over the globe, they still take an interest in the hospital and its welfare and their fellow members, whilst members of the Executive often travel down from London at great personal inconvenience to be present at our meetings. We are solvent, and, though we have not yet been able to do great things, the League forms a tangible and useful rallying-point for our nurses after they leave.

Now, in forming a League there are one or two points which seem to me vital, and a great many others that will naturally vary according to the taste of the promoters or the special views of the hospital or infirmary from whose nurses the League is formed.

The first vital point is that the membership of the League, if it is really to be representative of the nurses of the hospital or infirmary whose name it bears, should be limited to the nurses certificated by that hospital or infirmary, with the single exception of the Matron, and that they should form the General Council and the governing body, and elect the officers—in other words, that the League should be self-governing. Of course, it would be open to the League to make any arrangements it likes for the admission of Associates; and members of the nursing staff not trained at the hospital, or third-year probationers or others interested in the hospital, might well be elected Associates, but the members and governing body should, in my opinion, consist of the hospital's certificated nurses. I regard this point as very important.

Secondly, it should be self-supporting. The subscriptions should be small—nurses are poor—but not ridiculously so, and any attempt at begging from outside well-wishers should be sternly suppressed. Living, as nurses do, in an atmosphere of incessant begging for funds from the charitable, the feeling that it does not hurt one's self-respect, is not morally unwholesome to take money for one's private schemes, is not perhaps always sufficiently appreciated by them; but let the League be the nurses' very own, their own money and all, not floated by a £5 note from a kind friend, and let them learn to cut their League coat according to their cloth, and it will make them more independent, more self-reliant; they will in the end take far more interest and pride in its well-being if they build it entirely themselves. There is no need to incur heavy expenses of any kind, and the benevolent fund, if included in the programme, should be a small, not an elaborate affair, easily managed by the members themselves.

Thirdly, it must have a Journal, for a Journal, with its personal items and news, is the very breath

of a County Hospital League. You cannot come from Scotland, or the Midlands, or China, or India, or Central Africa to the meetings, but you can read in your Journal the hundred and one little trivial items, the pleasant gossip, that make the social life of a hospital, and that bring you in touch again with much that you do not want to forget or lose.

So those are really the three important points in forming a League—at least, I think so: that the governing body should be formed of the certificated nurses of the hospital; that it should "pay its own way"—be self-supporting; and that it should provide a means of communication between its members.

All other points are non-vital; they will develop according to the fancy, or the needs, or the desires of the members. It is not by any means necessary that the Matron of the hospital should be President of the League, though she will probably generally occupy that position. Whether they have a President, Secretary, and Treasurer rolled in one, or three officers, is not very important; whether the League have a religious bias, or a nursing-political one, or a more or less educational or a purely social one is a matter entirely for the members to decide, and it will certainly vary with various hospitals, reflecting their tone with more or less fidelity. It is not necessary that the Constitution or By-laws should be elaborate; simplicity and rules that are easily understood and not easily misinterpreted should be the order of the day. With a little energy on the part of the Matron, goodwill on that of the nurses, and that *camaraderie* which almost always exists amongst those who have been trained under the same conditions, I do not hesitate to predict success to any County Hospital League founded on rational lines. By the way, I had almost forgotten the motto, which is an important item. Ours is in Latin, and means "Aim high."

I shall be happy to send the provisional rules of our League to any Matron who would like to see them.

M. MOLLERT, Matron.

Invitation to Surrey House.

A drawing-room meeting for members of the nursing profession will be held, by the kind invitation of Lady Battersea, at Surrey House, Marble Arch, on Thursday, July 2nd, when Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., M.D., K.C.V.O., will be one of the speakers. The speeches will begin at 4 o'clock punctually. The invitation extends from 3.30 to 6.30. A musical programme has been arranged, and refreshments will be served in the course of the afternoon. Any nurse who would like to be present should write for an invitation to the Honorary Secretary of the Nurses' National Total Abstinence League, Miss Hilda Dillon, 47, Oakley Street, Chelsea. Lady Battersea is a delightful hostess, and an afternoon spent in her beautiful home is sure to be enjoyable.

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