

Lady Superintendent, if made as alleged, were meant in a spirit of advice and warning without any intention of being personal or insulting.

"(4) That many of the utterances complained of we find have been taken from the text and twisted to mean what it was clearly intended by the Lady Superintendent that they should not mean."

"The Board are of opinion that the finding of the Committee shows that there is a great lack of discipline amongst the nursing staff, and that the Lady Superintendent has been consistently opposed in her attempts to enforce it.

"We resolve that the signatories to the petition be severely reprimanded for their action.

"Will you kindly take steps to bring this to the notice of the nurses of the staff, and warn them that any future breach of discipline will be summarily dealt with."

The Nurses' Missionary Union.

Last week (by kind permission of the Rev. F. S. Webster), a most interesting meeting was held at the Church Home of All Souls, Langham Place, W., in connection with the Nurses' Missionary Union.

The upper room of the Church Home was prettily arranged, and here each nurse was warmly welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Webster, and all spent a most happy half-hour in social intercourse while partaking of the bountiful tea provided by the kind host and hostess.

At 7.30 the meeting was held in the hall downstairs.

Dr. G. W. Guinness gave a deeply interesting address on the great need of medical missionary work in China, and instances of how wonderfully the hearts of the Chinese have been won to Christianity by the love and skill of those who can alleviate their bodily sufferings. In reply to a question from Mr. Webster, he also very briefly gave some incidents in his wonderful escape from the Boxers, and showed how marvellously God can deliver His children out of whatever "tight corners" they may be driven into, and that the presence of their Lord made them safer than all the life insurances in the world.

Miss K. Miller, Secretary of the Nurses' Missionary Union, then gave a short account of the nature and aims of the N.M.U., and of its progress during the last few months. She also told of some definite, pressing needs for nurses in mission hospitals abroad, and showed that the N.M.U. seeks to be the link to bring in touch with the missionary societies those nurses who have the God-given desire to devote their lives to this grand work, and also emphasised one of the chief aims of the Union—viz., to help nurses during their hospital course to begin to prepare themselves for this work by encouraging and helping them to form little missionary associations among themselves in each hospital for united Bible and missionary study.

After a hymn, the Rev. F. S. Webster gave the closing address, and showed most clearly and solemnly what are some of the indispensable qualifications of a missionary—that mere philanthropy and enthusiasm for humanity are not enough, there must be the constraining power of the love of Christ.

Old Scottish Hospitals.

An impressive feature in the external aspect of the Lowlands of Scotland seven or eight hundred years ago, says "J. J. V." in the *Scotsman*, was the large number and extent of buildings all more or less connected with the Church of that period, ranging from the stately abbey down to the humble chantry. In the matter of hospitals alone, the whole district was thickly studded with these beneficent institutions for the relief of the poor and needy long prior to the Reformation, but we look almost in vain for similar provision in post-Reformation days. While nearly every hospital in pre-Reformation times had its staff of nurses and a resident chaplain, all of whom administered to the afflicted, it does not contribute to the credit of the Reformers, ministers or laymen, that little or no provision was made for the alleviation of the sufferings of the poorer classes, and in the very few hospitals which survived or were established after the Reformation the restrictions placed upon the inmates were much more severe in their degree than in the pre-Reformation hospitals. Thus at the Edinburgh Leper Hospital, which was not established until 1591, years after the Reformation settlement, the rules of the hospital were enforced under the penalty of death, and, that this might not be deemed an empty threat, a gallows was erected at the gavel of the hospital for the summary execution of offenders. Compare this with the acts of the Church of the twelfth century, the ministers of which became the champions of the poor leprous outcasts, and established in different centres hospitals for their reception. Hospitals may be defined as charitable institutions for the relief or support of persons unable to satisfy their own wants. Their uses were exceedingly varied: some were founded as homes for the sick, or for the gratuitous entertainment of pilgrims and travellers; others sheltered the aged and infirm poor, as well as orphan children; while another class was for the protection of lunatics, and still another for the segregation of lepers. Some were medical charities, others non-medical, while many comprised both. While as in the Middle Ages we still have asylums for the blind, there were some forms of charitable refuges existing at that period which from various causes are non-existent now, and others unknown then are now to be found in considerable numbers. Thus the hospital at Flixton, which was originally erected and endowed for the preservation of travellers, "that they might not be devoured by wolves and other wild beasts abounding there," must of necessity have long ago fallen into desuetude through the need having passed away; the same with the leper hospitals, then the most numerous throughout the country, but which became unserviceable when that scourge was stamped out about 250 years ago. On the other hand, it is curious to note how rare a

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