

## London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission.

The inaugural meeting of the Jubilee of the London Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission was held at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, on Monday last. The Marquess of Northampton, President, was in the chair. The proceedings opened by the singing of the hymn, "Now thank we all our God." A short retrospect of the past fifty years was then given by the Chairman. The Mission, he said, was founded by Mrs. Ranyard with a prayer on her lips, the work of the Biblewomen in 1857 and that of the nurses eleven years later.

Lord Kinnaird presented the financial statement, from which it appeared that the average income from subscriptions and donations for the last three years has been £11,600 and the expenditure £13,624. All legacies have thus been absorbed instead of being put to capital account. He appealed both for donations to the Jubilee Fund and for increased subscriptions.

Sir Frederick Treves followed, testifying to the good work of the nurses, and its special value amongst those from whom hospital out-patients are drawn. Every hospital physician and surgeon was familiar with two sad classes of cases, those who came too late to be cured, and the relapsed cases—cases sent out of the wards on the way to recovery but who relapsed for want of sufficient care. If the work of these nurses could be multiplied, such cases should become unknown in the Metropolis.

Lord Northampton being compelled to leave, Sir William Broadbent then took the chair, and the speech of the afternoon was made by the Hon. Superintendent, Miss Andrews, who gave a most interesting account of the work of the Mission.

She quoted Mrs. Browning's well-known words as embodying the lines on which the Mission works.

"We must be here to work

And not to work in vain must comprehend  
humanity, and so work humanly,  
And raise men's bodies still by raising souls  
As God did first."

The extent of the work of the nurses was indicated in the statement that there were on the books of the Mission sufficient sick cases to fill a large hospital. The three branches are the Hostel for District Training, the Convalescent Home at St. Leouards, and the Home of Rest for the Nurses.

Canon Gedge, the Rector of Gravesend, said that after listening to Miss Andrews he felt it was "spoiling the show" to add anything more. He was followed by the Rev. Alexander Connell, of Regent Square, Presbyterian Church, and Dr. C. J. Cullingworth, who spoke in cordial terms of the work of the nurses in connection with the out-patient department at St. Thomas's Hospital.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairmen, and then the audience dispersed. The bright faced nurses and Biblewomen who held plates at the door and lined the stairs to the Hall, looked as if, in spite of all the sorrow and suffering with which they are in contact, they found their life a very satisfying one.

## Practical Points.

**Don't Forget.**

That in giving a hot air bath, it is most important to remember the pitcher of water to stand at the foot of the bed in case of fire. That a very simple way to sterilise a hypodermic needle, or anything of the kind, is to boil it in a small test-tube over a flame. That utensils which must be prepared hastily for an emergency, can be sterilised by coating them with alcohol, which is then ignited and allowed to burn itself out. Glass receptacles will crack if treated in this manner.

**The Disinfection of Clinical Thermometers and Hypodermic Syringes.**

The disinfection or sterilisation of clinical thermometers and of hypodermic syringes and needles deserves especial mention. With the present comparatively low price of clinical thermometers there is little or no excuse for not having an individual thermometer for at least every patient ill with an infectious or a contagious disease or a continued fever. But even this precaution, desirable as it certainly is, does not obviate the necessity for disinfecting or sterilising the thermometer. The necessary disinfection may be effected in a number of ways, the thermometer may be dipped for a few minutes in strong phenol, the solution of cresol, or in the now official solution of formaldehyd, after which it is thoroughly rinsed in water. Where an individual thermometer is provided it may be sterilised by keeping the bulb immersed in 75 per cent. alcohol, a saturated solution of boric acid, the official liquor antisepticus, or in a mixture of equal parts of antiseptic solution and of solution of hydrogen dioxid. It must appeal even to the least careful that the disinfection of clinical thermometers is a precaution so essentially important that it should never be neglected.

The hypodermic syringe and needle should be disinfected with strong phenol or cresol solutions, solution of formaldehyd or by repeated washing with very hot water, as a purely routine procedure. When a syringe and needle are known to be infected the disinfection should be as thorough as that of other surgical instruments.

Solutions intended for hypodermic injection can be sterilised by boiling, when this does not cause decomposition. With the now widely used hypodermic tablets it is preferable to boil the necessary quantity of water, or better, distilled water, for a minute or two, then add the tablet, avoiding all unnecessary handling, and heat sufficiently to insure thorough solution. Cocain, being readily decomposed, cannot be boiled, but the solution may be sterilised by heating to about 80 deg. C. (176 deg. F.) for thirty minutes on two successive days. It will usually be found to be preferable, however, to use freshly prepared solutions that have been made in a sterile bottle with recently boiled and sterile distilled water. Eucain and stovain solutions may be boiled, but these substances themselves are not entirely free from objections.

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