

The Latest League.



With the issue of the *Nurses' League Journal* of the General Hospital Birmingham, the latest League of Nurses has taken its place well to the fore amongst these most useful organisations. The journal assumes a modest soft grey

cover, lettered in blue, tied with a bright blue cord, and paper, printing, and the matter it contains, is of the best. We like this—it shows a becoming respect for “letters.”

The new journal contains two excellent pictures of the General Hospital, Birmingham, as it originally appeared in 1766, “a plain, but noble edifice,” and as it stands to-day in all its beauty.

Miss M. E. Jones, the Matron of the Hospital, to whose keen interest in nursing organisation the new League owes its inception, writes under the heading of

INTRODUCTION.

“I cannot express the pleasure it has been to me to hear from and see so many of my former nurses, and to know that their interest in their old hospital is still fresh and green and has not faded away. I am glad that the formation of a League in connection with the General Hospital has been accomplished. I think to get a list of one hundred and fifty members in three months is sufficient proof that the movement is a popular one. I hope all the members will continue to take an interest and an active part in its management, by using their right to vote and having a ‘say’ in its government, and not be content to leave it entirely in the hands of its Council.

“The Motto chosen by the Members is ‘Unity’—a very good motto, and one we must all try and live up to. By unity and co-operation we can do great things; women have in the past been slow to recognise its value, but let us hope they are now becoming more awake to their own interests and are beginning to understand the great power and help of co-operation and unity. So many of us, if we prosper individually, go on contentedly in our own little groove and take little or no notice, in fact, are quite indifferent to the wider interests of the nursing profession, or the many social questions of the day.

“We hope, then, by means of the League to arouse a keener interest amongst its members in nursing questions of the day. We must all remember that one of the objects of the League is to promote the usefulness and honour of the nursing profession! How are we to do our duty in this respect if we do not know or care what goes on outside our own hospital walls? Let us all, therefore, try, as members of the League, to maintain the very highest standard in our work and conduct, what or wherever that work may be. By so doing we shall keep up the reputation

and good name of our hospital, and also help in maintaining the honour of the nursing profession.”

At a meeting held in the hospital Board Room in May, at which there was a large gathering, the constitution and bye-laws of the League were adopted and the following officers elected:—

LIST OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

President and Treasurer, Miss M. E. Jones; Matron; Vice-President, Miss A. A. Mossop; Matron, Homœopathic Hospital, Birmingham; Secretary, Miss S. A. McFarlane, Night Sister. *Council*:—*Resident*: Sister Wyles, Sister Hill, Sister Millar. *Non-resident*: Miss H. Hannath, Matron, General Hospital, Wolverhampton; Miss H. Marriott, Matron, Eye Hospital, Birmingham; Mrs. Boeddicker, late Sister.

OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE.

The League has been formed: (1) To strengthen the bond of union between past and present members of the nursing staff, by meetings and the publication of a journal; (2) To endeavour to promote the honour, usefulness and interests of the nursing profession; (3) To keep a register of members.

The rules provide that the matron of the hospital shall be one of the three Hon. Officers, and that the President shall be elected for a term of five years.

The fact that in a few weeks 150 members have been elected is proof of the popularity of the League.

Mr. Howard J. Collins, the popular House Governor, “being anxious,” as he writes, “to do anything I can to show my interest in and to assist this excellent movement,” contributes to the Journal the first instalment of “The Early History of the General Hospital, Birmingham,” which throws light on the crude beginnings of our wonderful voluntary hospital system, only a hundred and fifty years ago. When we read that in 1768 the funds were said to be very low, with the result that the secretary’s salary, which was only £10 a year, had not been paid, it sets one wondering how and on what men lived in those days.

The money to build and equip the hospital was evidently obtained with vast difficulty, as it was not until 1779 the “Rules for the government of the house” were adopted, and it was decided to appoint a House Apothecary and Matron; they were both to be “free from the Care and Burthen of a Family; and the more eligible if they have no connections in this town.” The Matron’s salary was fifteen guineas a year, and a gratuity of five guineas if she continued for more than a year, and discharged her duties to the satisfaction of the weekly Board.

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