

The League of St. John's House Nurses is greatly to be congratulated on the excellence of its exhibit, and St. John's House on having on its staff so many nurses skilled in the use of their needles in these days when fine needlework is in some danger of becoming a lost art.

EXHIBIT OF ROYAL SOUTH HANTS NURSES' LEAGUE.

Miss Mollett, President, with her usual kindness, undertook what at first sight appeared to be an uninteresting section, the exhibition of professional literature and journals, of course edited by nurses, and medals, badges, pins, and brassards worn by nurses.

This table was excellently arranged by Miss Mollett, and proved of the utmost interest and educational value. Together reposing side by side were the three official organs of the International Council of Nurses, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, *The American Journal of Nursing*, and *Unterm Lazaruskreuz*, the German Nurses' Journal. The two reports of the International Council of Nurses, the report of the Matrons' Council, and the Nursing Directory, published under its authority, the last report of the Society for State Registration of Nurses, and copies of the Nurses' Petition, The Brassard of the Registered Nurses' Society, Copies of the official organs of the Leagues of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, St. John's House, Chelsea Infirmary, Leicester Infirmary, Royal South Hants, Kingston Infirmary, the Parish of Nottingham, Bethnal Green Infirmary, and the Birmingham General Hospital, the *Queen's Nurses' Journal*, the Canadian Nurses' Journal, and several organs of American Nurses' Associations. The bound copies, belonging to the International Council Library, were greatly admired, that of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, in ivory vellum and gold, taking the palm.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, of nursing fame, sent from Bordeaux a very comprehensive exhibit—a bound copy of the French Nurses' Journal, *La Garde-Malade Hospitaliere*, a set of most interesting photographs of groups of nurses—one looking quite English—with Miss Elston in the centre of a charming group of nurses in their trim uniforms, the staff of the Tondu Hospital.

An exquisitely covered copy of the historic Thesis on Nursing which Dr. Hamilton presented to the Faculty of Medicine at Montpellier before receiving her Diploma, which was full of most wonderful illustrations, aroused great interest—one of a plague nurse, enveloped in an overall, and on her head a mask with long beak-like nose, was described most quaintly; when worn the proboscis was filled

with aromatic perfume and the eyes were of crystal.

A bound volume of *Nosokomos*, the organ of the Dutch Nurses' Association, was also on view.

That a large table eight feet square could be nearly covered by professional journals and magazines, owned and edited by nurses and nursing societies, is a very significant sign of the times. For many years this Journal stood alone, the first and only nursing journal in the world. Now it rejoices to find itself surrounded by a galaxy of brilliant contemporaries, which in divers tongues express the same professional ideals.

"Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff (William Blackwood and Sons), and Miss L. L. Dock's "Materia Medica" (G. P. Putnam's) were in a prominent position, and attracted considerable attention.

The small but interesting collection of nursing Orders and badges were much admired. Amongst the Orders were the coveted Royal Red Cross, kindly lent by Sister Hope, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, whose blue and red ribband is the desire of every nurse; the handsome black and white Cross of St. John of Jerusalem, the property of Miss Moles, R.N.S.; and the Greek Red Cross, with the date 1897, a rare decoration given to those English nurses who went out to nurse the wounded in the Turco-Greek war; it belongs to Miss Skerman, R.N.S. The League badges had a peculiar interest in an exhibition inaugurated by their central authority and included many suggestive designs. Thus, the Chelsea Infirmary silver token emphasised the fact that union is strength; the League of St. Bartholomew's displays the old black and white shield; the Royal South Hants nurses the red and white Tudor roses of Southampton. Very handsome was the blue and white badge of the Leicester Infirmary, and the enamelled badge of the latest League, the Birmingham General Hospital, was much admired. The St. John's House badge, with its bold and appropriate symbolic bird, was very striking. The Kingston Infirmary and Nottingham Infirmary Leagues had handsome bronze designs, and the Bethnal Green Infirmary badge showed the traditional Blind Beggar of that ilk.

The cross of honour "Ehrenkreuz" sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick by the German Nurses' Association was accompanied by the badge of the members of that singularly energetic and successful body. The design was good and the German colours very effective. Very conspicuous also was a fine Spanish nursing order belonging to Miss J. A. Smith, President K.I.N.L.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)