

The Missionary Nurse.

The Nurses' Missionary League held two Valedictory Meetings at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., last Tuesday, to take leave of eight nurses proceeding to the foreign mission-field. Mrs. Craig, wife of Dr. Craig, of Bethlem Hospital, presided, at the afternoon meeting, and after the singing of a hymn and prayer, the objects of the League were explained by Miss Fairfield, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The first speaker announced for the afternoon meeting was Mrs. Albert Cook, who was trained at Guy's Hospital, of Mengo Hospital, Uganda, but as, unfortunately, she was not well enough to be present her husband, Dr. Cook, gave an interesting address. He began by saying he would like to take the meeting bodily to Central Africa to see the need of Africa for trained nurses. The Waganda are described as the Japanese of Africa, and are a deeply interesting tribe.

The hospital work was begun at first in a very small way; then a wattle and daub hospital was opened by Sir Harry Johnston. This was struck by lightning, and the thatched roof, which comprised no less than 110 tons of thatch, caught fire, so that those who tried to rescue some of the more valuable possessions, after the patients were in safety, saw billows of flame tossing above them. A new hospital of 120 beds is now completed, quite up-to-date with cemented floors and sanitary walls; but Dr. Cook stated that equally good results were obtained, both in relation to major operations and confinement cases, when the floors were smeared with cow-dung, native fashion, as a preventive of dust, jiggers, and fleas. Last year there were 1,700 in-patients, 600 operations, and 200 confinement cases. He told an interesting story of a native heroine who heard of people dying on an island from sleeping sickness, and, well knowing the risk she ran, went and lived amongst them in order to help them. Eventually she contracted, and died of, the disease.

Dr. Cook urged trained nurses to take up missionary work; the cry for their help is so bitter, the nurses so few, and the Master's voice so pleading.

Miss Kinnard emphasised the same need in India, and asked for the very best—not only good nurses but those who could train others—who would be adaptable and possessed tact and wisdom.

Miss Eva Warren, of Quetta, in an interesting speech, described the qualities needed by a nurse as "grit, gumption, and grace."

After a short interval for tea those who were leaving for the mission-field spoke a few words—Miss Muriel Saunders (who has had some experience at the Mildmay Mission Hospital), and Miss Lydia Fox (trained at the London Temperance Hospital)—and letters were read from Miss E. P. Turner (trained at the Camberwell Infirmary) and Miss Aikman (trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh). A few earnest words were spoken by Miss K. Miller, the General Secretary, and then the Rev. William Bolton, who has recently returned from Shanghai, gave a most interesting account of the work in China.

Irish Nurses' Association.

The opening meeting of the winter session of the Irish Nurses' Association was held on Saturday last, at the Association Rooms, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. Mrs. Kildare Treacy, President of the Association, took the chair at 7 o'clock, and gave a short address. She expressed regret at Miss Hampson's absence, and spoke of how much she had done for the Association, alluding to the opening of the Nurses' Club seven years ago, which was principally due to the efforts of Miss Hampson and Miss Huxley.

The President also announced that the following lectures had been arranged for the winter session:—October 30th, "Some Points and Suggestions About Surgical Cases," Dr. Wheeler; Nov. 18th, "Hygiene," Dr. Ella Orendon; December 11th, "Complications of Labour," Dr. Gibbon FitzGibbon.

A member of the Association, now resident in England, who was able to attend the meeting, writes:—

It was a very successful meeting, and I was so glad to see the nurses from all the different hospitals joining together and enjoying themselves; really a most unheard of thing in my day so long ago.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, as President, welcomed everyone present to the first meeting of the winter session, and thanked those kind matrons who entertained the members during the summer. She also urged all the members to join the Society for State Registration, and pointed out strongly the advantages of it to trained nurses, as registration would protect them from the untrained women who pose as trained nurses and wear our uniform, which they so often disgrace. She begged those present to make an effort and to give the shilling which she was willing to send on for them, and become members of the Society. I am glad to say there were several nurses who, after the meeting, said they would be glad to join. So I feel sure we have a very strong member in Mrs. Treacy, and a good fighter for State registration.

Mrs. Treacy also spoke of that most delightful week in Paris, and said how sorry she felt that so many Irish nurses were unable to be there last June, as to her it was certainly a most unforgettable time, and a red-letter week in her experience of nursing during the last 20 years, not only for the amount of work put in, in the interesting papers read, but for the pleasure it was to meet so many splendid women, who were all doing so grand a work in the nursing world.

The Secretary kindly took me over the house, and showed me several bedrooms which members coming to Dublin for a short time can have, with board, for a very moderate fee.

I felt so delighted to be back once more amongst my old friends. The evening was a most enjoyable one to me.

After the meeting the members adjourned for tea, and an attractive programme of music, singing, dances, games, etc., arranged by Miss Butler, Miss Crowther, Miss Carson Rae, and Miss Wills, was much enjoyed.

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