

### League News.

A copy of the first issue of the *Journal of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League* has reached us. It is presented in a pretty blue cover, and the contents are quite excellent.

#### LOYALTY.

It is only nine months since Miss Forrest attended the discussion on Nurses' Leagues at the Conference of the Provisional Committee of our National Council held in London last autumn, and we learn from the *Journal* that she returned straightway to Bournemouth, and that a League of nearly 100 members was soon founded, who have adopted a Badge, and "Loyalty" as their motto. "Let us remember it, and act on it. Loyalty to duty, to our profession, to our institute, to our fellow members, and to ourselves," writes the Editor.

#### PRIDE OF CRAFT.

A history is given of the formation of the League, and Miss Mollett's remarks at the first meeting on Pride of Craft might well be taken to heart. "Why should a League be founded?" she questions. "Because of the tendency to over-individuality; because of our forgetfulness of the value of tolerance; because we are apt to undervalue the non-material things of this life, the things which do not pay, but the things which if only our eyes were opened to see, to know, and believe, underlie the paying things and which lose their potency, their value and their charm when we realise they *do* pay. Such non-material things as honour, love of work for its own sake, unselfishness, and the higher springs of action. Doing things that didn't pay and to go on doing them. Do not cheapen your moral lives. The highest actions are not founded on a monetary basis or done for love of praise; but from pride—pride of craft, pride of race, pride of country; not pride in and for oneself, but for the body, or profession, or country to which we belong." . . . "A League upholds honour and uplifts a high standard of work; it helps towards a sense of unity, unity first in our immediate circle, unity among nurses of our nation, and then an inspiring thought, unity among all nurses that on earth do dwell. And unity is strength, and the achievement of unity is the object of our Leagues."

One of the best things in the *Journal* is the spirited account of the Paris Conference signed "M.W." It is quite delightful, alive with good feeling, and tells us how Miss Forrest chaperoned about 20 members of the League to that historic meeting, of their great interest in its work, and of all the fun and frolic they enjoyed. To judge from quotes from their

letters, the Members of the Victoria Nursing Institute appear to go far afield to cases, and these form a very interesting section of the *Journal*. Miss Helen Todd writes on the International Council of Nurses, and proves what a tremendous lever it has been in nursing organisation since it was founded in 1899. A slight correction may be in order. The International Council is not composed alone of delegates from National Councils, but includes all the Councillors or Foundation Members, and the Hon. Officers, and there are already several other National Associations of Nurses other than those of the United States of America and Germany; notably Denmark, Holland and Finland.

We heartily congratulate the President and Members of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League upon the appearance and quality of their official organ, and upon their wonderful energy and the splendid success which has crowned their efforts.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

An impression—that means having seen on a broad scale, omitting details.

An impressionist—someone who sees things in broad masses of colour or shade.

Well, then, my impression of the Paris Conference as a whole, without details, is an impression of colour, vivid brilliant colour. It was a time of great joy, of a great out-pouring of sisterly feeling, of real goodwill and desire to appreciate and to profit by the good points in others' training, in others' work. For that week one saw and felt what one may never know again, the "joie de vivre" among a vast number of women, total strangers to each other, unable in many cases to communicate with each other by word, but all living in the joy of service to the sick, and united in the eager desire to know more in order to do better. Such joy could not have lasted long under our present conditions, but truly for the time being all evil speaking and slandering, all jealousy and envying, seemed to be put away. I was one of a band of keen workers—I should think the largest band probably from one Institute—and I think my "impression" would be only an echo of theirs—that to have had such a week of sympathy, spoken and unspoken, among women of many nations, to have seen the leaders of our profession from the U.S.A., France, Germany, Finland, not to speak of Greater Britain, to have had such opportunities of learning, of seeing how the work so dear to us is done in another land, was most inspiring. Surely it was a week worth living for, and a week that ought to leave a lasting mark on our work for good.

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