

League News.

THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

A General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held at the Hospital on Saturday, June 27th. Miss Isla Stewart took the chair, receiving a great ovation on entering the room, it being her twenty-first birthday at the hospital.

Very satisfactory reports were presented by the General Secretary (Mrs. Matthews), and the Treasurer (Miss Jenkins), who announced a balance in hand of £127 12s 7d., an illustration of the fact that when women manage their own finances they do not get into debt.

The general report referred with great regret to the resignation by Miss Stewart of the Presidency. "Whatever success the League had achieved was due to her skilful guidance," but everyone appreciates the wisdom and disinterested motive which has led Miss Stewart to take this course. As founder of the first League in this country, she is anxious that a precedent should not be created that a Matron of a hospital must always be the President of the Nurses' League, and so has resigned that a member elected by the votes of her colleagues may take this honourable position.

It was announced that Mrs. Andrews, Miss Cutler, Miss Todd, and Miss Waind had been elected delegates of the League on the National Council of Trained Nurses, that Miss Cox-Davies retired from the office of Vice-President, and that Miss Stewart and Mrs. Walter Spencer had accepted office as Vice-Presidents.

Sister Surgery, Miss Cutler, and Miss Jenkins were then appointed to count the votes recorded for the two candidates nominated for the Presidency, Miss Mollett and Miss Cox-Davies.

The Financial Secretary reported that, in connection with the special appeal for contributions towards the rebuilding of the Nurses' Home the Committee had £566 14s. 3d. in hand. It was agreed to forward £500 to the Treasurer and Almoners and to keep the balance as a nest-egg to encourage further donations.

Miss Stewart then gave a brief account of the present position of the State Registration movement, showing how a very great danger had been averted by the defeat of the Nursing Directory Bill, which had suddenly been introduced by Lord Balfour of Burleigh into the House of Lords. She then announced that the Bill of the State Registration Society had been introduced by Lord Ampthill into

the House of Lords and read a first time, and that its second reading was down for Monday, July 6th. She urged all members of the League who were acquainted with members of the House of Lords to communicate with them without delay, and concluded by saying that the Registration movement was in a very prosperous condition.

Mrs. Wates, Miss Winnmill, Miss Kingsford, and Mrs. de Segundo were elected members of the Executive Committee.

On the proposition of Mrs. Spencer, it was agreed that the full list of members should be published in the January *League News*, and changes of addresses only be notified in July.

Mrs. Spencer then moved: "That a sum of £10 be sent to the State Registration Society in aid of emergency expenses," saying that enough had been said to show that recently the Society had passed through a period of great activity. The work was voluntary, but there were heavy expenses for printing and postage. The House of Lords had recently been memorialised twice.

A letter was read from Mrs. Andrews warmly supporting the resolution.

Mrs. Fenwick said that those who read the debate on the Directory Bill in the House of Lords must have been not only gratified but surprised at the intimate knowledge of the Registration question displayed by eminent statesmen. The gratitude of nurses was due not only to Lord Ampthill, who had rendered them such signal service, but to other eminent peers, notably Lord Lansdowne and Lord Ashbourne, who discussed the question in such a liberal spirit. Had not Lord Ampthill been good enough to espouse the cause of the nurses, there would have been no one to plead for them when the "Subjection Bill" came up for consideration. Even those members of the House of Lords who voted for the Directory Bill stated that they did so to further the immediate progress of State Registration. She asked all present to do their utmost to secure support for Lord Ampthill's Bill. She had forgotten all about the £10.

Miss Barling proposed the amount should be raised to £20, and eventually £25 was agreed upon as the donation of the League to the Registration Society at the present crisis, for which the President warmly thanked the League, saying it would never be quite so useful as at the present time.

The next business on the agenda was the revision of the constitution and bye-laws, but bouquets, bands, and banquets being the order of the day, the meeting was in no spirit to tackle the dry details of revising the consti-

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