

popular prejudice, and many of them have to begin life over again and amidst new surroundings. Unlike sufferers from bodily disease, for whom a situation is often kept open, the doubtful duration of a mental malady finds a situation filled up by the time the sufferer is recovered. Also many hospitals for bodily diseases have their convalescent homes, but mental hospitals and asylums rarely have any place where their convalescents can be further "annealed." Even discharged criminals have societies which afford relief and help to those who have left prison, yet our own Society is languishing for support.

I believe in voluntary aid for our Society, for charity is as incumbent upon the citizen of to-day as it was in the early days of Christianity, when voluntary offerings were amply sufficient to provide for the sick and needy. I believe that the influence of our Society is wholly for good. It encourages the self-respect of honest people without implying any feeling of dependency, it minimises the exaggerated prejudice against mental infirmity, it enlightens the convalescing patient, as well as the public generally, as to the inestimable value of a clean life and of temperate habits, and it helps to engender what Dr. Clouston happily describes as "a hygienic conscience."

It is the duty of each of us to see that the treasury of our Association should not be lacking in funds, for, if one of the smallest of our well-known charitable institutions, it is certainly one which ministers to the most helpless as well as the most overwhelmingly pitiable.

### The Territorial Force Nursing Association for the City and County of London.

The first meeting of the recently instituted Ladies' Committee of the Territorial Force Nursing Association for the City and County of London was held at the Mansion House on Thursday, 18th inst. The Lady Mayoress presided, and there was a very large attendance. Amongst those present were Miss Haldane, LL.D., the Countess of Denbigh, Viscountess Esher, Lady Dimsdale, Lady Susan Gilmour, Lady Cornwall, the Hon. Mrs. Charles Tufton, Lady Savory, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Davies, Miss Finch, Miss H. Todd, Miss Barton, Miss H. L. Pearse, Miss Hall, and Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C.

The Lady Mayoress gave a charming little address in which she hoped valuable national work would be done by the Committee, and said that nothing was more lovely than to see

women engaged in the beneficent work of caring for the sick. Miss Haldane explained the objects of the Nursing Service.

#### HON. OFFICERS.

Lady Truscott, the Lady Mayoress, was elected Chairman, Lady Dimsdale Vice-Chairman, and Miss Goodhue, trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and who is not actively engaged in nursing at present, Hon. Secretary.

#### THE FOUR ORGANISING MATRONS.

The following ladies were elected to organise the four City and County of London Hospitals: Miss Isla Stewart, St. Bartholomew's, Miss Davies, St. Mary's; Miss Ray, King's College; and Miss Barton, Chelsea Infirmary.

#### ORGANISATION OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE.

It was agreed to form a large Council of ladies, who, though they may not be able to devote a great deal of time to the Service, might assist with valuable advice—the ladies who had already been officially invited to form the Committee to form the first Council, with power to add to their number.

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following ladies were then elected to form the Executive Committee, which is to meet monthly. The three Hon. Officers, the four organising Matrons, and their four honorary secretaries, the Countess of Denbigh, the Viscountess Esher, Lady Brassey, Lady Susan Gilmour, Lady Mackinnon, Lady Faudel Phillips, Lady Cornwall, Lady Barlow, Mrs. Adam, Mrs. G. Byron, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Finch, Mrs. Clement Godson, Mrs. Hanson, Miss H. L. Pearse, Mrs. Shepherd, and Mrs. Walter Spencer.

#### THE SUB-COMMITTEES.

It was decided to institute four Sub-Committees to deal with each Territorial hospital, and to report to the Executive Committee once a month. The four organising Matrons were empowered to select the members of such sub-committees, and to appoint their hon. secretaries, who would, together with the Matrons, have ex-officio seats upon the Executive Committee. Two members of the Executive Committee were to be elected on to each sub-committee.

#### A NURSES' MEETING AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

To make the scheme known to the nurses of London, the Lady Mayoress agreed to hold a large meeting in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, on Monday, March 15th, at 4 o'clock. It was agreed that admission should be by ticket, and the four Organising Matrons and Miss Goodhue were elected a sub-committee to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting having got through its business with harmony and dispatch, terminated, and those present were most kindly entertained to tea by the Lady Mayoress.

*previous page*

*next page*