

League News.

GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

The eight Annual Meeting and the second Annual Dinner of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League will be held in the Nurses' Home, on Friday, April 29th. Dinner, 7 p.m. Miss Gertrude Rogers, Matron of Leicester Infirmary, has kindly consented to take the chair at the meeting.

The sixth Annual Exhibition of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' Photographic Society will be opened on the 29th April.

The first Post-graduate Lecture arranged by the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, was held on Tuesday, April 5th, in the Nurses' Home.

Dr. Cameron, in his opening remarks, said he had tried to imagine that the lectures were for those who had been away from the wards for a period of about five years. Recently great alterations in the treatment prescribed for gastric ulcer had been made, based on the scientific research of Prof. Pawlow, and followed up by Prof. Lenhartz, whose treatment consisted of rest in bed, ice-bag to epigastrium, large doses of bis. carb. grs. xxx., iron as a tonic directed against the anæmia, and continuous spoon feeding leading up to a normal diet. Typhoid fever was another disease in which the method of treatment had undergone a complete change. The patient was allowed to sit up in bed, and a more generous diet was given, in addition to milk, cream, chocolate, puddings, and minced meats being allowed, so that he had not to fight against the terrible weakness caused by a low diet as well as the weakness from the disease itself. Cold baths were also advocated, as, in addition to lowering the temperature, they were of great value as a stimulant to the whole body.

CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM NURSES' LEAGUE.

CLEVELAND STREET BRANCH.

The inaugural meeting of the Cleveland Street Branch of the Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League was held at Cleveland Street Infirmary, on Saturday, April 9th, when the following officers were elected:—*President*, Miss Charlotte Leigh; *Hon. Treasurer*, Miss Shaw; *Hon. Secretary*, Miss M. Punchard; *Hon. Editor*, Miss Farries; *Executive Committee*, Miss R. Smith, Miss Chick, Miss E. Hill, Miss Healey, Miss France, Miss Tippell.

The Hon. Editor will be glad to receive communications of interest for publication in the League Journal, which will be issued about the end of the year.

Metropolitan Asylums' Board.

The Metropolitan Asylums' Board on Saturday last had before them part of the Finance Committee's Report of March 8th, in which they submitted proposals made by the Hospitals' Committee to amend the consolidated salaries and wages scale in respect of the nursing staff in the Hospitals' Service, together with the grounds on which such proposals are made.

These proposals were made in consequence of a letter addressed by the Medical Superintendent of the Park Hospital, Dr. Birdwood, to the Clerk of the Board, on October 16th, 1907, in which, in forwarding a list of candidates for appointment as Charge and First-Assistant Nurses, who had responded to an advertisement, he wrote:—

"Only one of the 26 applicants for charge nurse was trained in a general hospital in London, and in her case some further information is necessary before appointment. There must be something wrong somewhere to account for this boycott of the Asylums' Board by the élite of the nursing community. Something should be done to find out why women trained in the best training schools attached to the general hospitals of the Metropolis avoid the Board's service. I think it a great disadvantage to us to be deprived of well-qualified nurses if by any action on the Board's part their services could be secured."

This letter was referred to Dr. Cuff, who submitted an important report upon it, and the Hospitals' Committee, as a result, went into the whole question of the nursing staff with a view to the improvement of the service. They received much information and some valuable suggestions from the Medical Superintendents and Matrons of the Board's Hospitals, and interviewed the Matrons of ten of the large London general hospitals, and three of the Board's hospitals, and discussed the whole subject with Dr. Cuff. In their deliberations they kept two objects in view:—

(1) How to improve the standing and character of the Board's nursing staff; and

(2) How to utilise the Board's unique position as an infectious hospital authority, to spread abroad among nurses knowledge and experience of fever nursing—a most important branch of their profession.

They therefore considered the Board's present nursing system, and the grades into which the nurses are divided, in relation to the acute hospitals, the convalescent hospitals, the small-pox hospitals, and river ambulance service.

We published a full report of the recommendations of the Hospitals' Committee in our issue of March 19th. They included:—

The abolition of the position of Superintendent of Night Nurses, the duties of this office to be undertaken by the Sisters in rotation for a period not exceeding twelve months, with extra remuneration at the rate of 10s. per month.

The creation of a distinct grade of "Sister" in place of the present Charge Nurse. The Sisters must have had full general training, and be women

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