

## The Nurses' Missionary League.

The valedictory meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League were held throughout the day on Wednesday, October 5th, at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. The interest was well sustained throughout the day, the evening meeting being far the largest.

### THE MORNING CONFERENCE.

The morning conference was devoted to the two following questions.

### THE OUTLOOK AND PURPOSE OF THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The chair was taken by Miss Hope Bell (London Hospital), who conducted the Conference with much ability, and gave an earnest address on David in the Wilderness as Uncrowned King, drawing the parallel of the Christ as an uncrowned king in so many individual lives. She pointed out that David's kingdom was not lifted up on high because of those who were with him at his coronation, but by those who joined him in the wilderness, whose first characteristic was personal devotion to their king. So the Nurses' Missionary League must accomplish its work through the personal devotion of individual members to the King of Kings. She also described the ritual by which the devotees of the god Siva dedicate themselves to his service. After the morning bath they go to the temple to renew their caste marks. Touching the head, they say: "O divine spirit, this head is thine"; then the muscles of the arms, saying: "O divine spirit, this strength is thine"; and lastly the chest, over the heart, saying: "O divine spirit, these feelings are thine." That should be the attitude of Christians to their Master—their intellect, their strength, their affections dedicated to His service.

### HOW THE LEAGUE HELPS IN THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE.

The first paper was contributed by Miss Blenkarn (Guy's Hospital), and was read by Miss Learner, of the London Hospital. Amongst the helps enumerated were that the League creates a bond of union between members in the same hospital, it stirs up a keen interest in missionary work at home and abroad, and makes the members feel their individual responsibility for that work. Lastly, it gives members something definite to work for, something definite to study.

A general discussion then took place, in which members from Guy's Hospital, the London Hospital, the London Temperance Hospital, the Mildmay Mission Hospital, the Great Northern Central Hospital, the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, and others took part.

### PREPARATION FOR WORK ABROAD.

Miss H. Y. Richardson then enumerated the principal points in a paper contributed by Miss Bussby, of the General Hospital, Nottingham, on the help of the League in preparation for work abroad. The usefulness of the meetings for Bible study was emphasised, and the fact that the courage required for speaking at the small meetings of the League in hospital would count for a good deal when the active work of a missionary was begun.

### WINNING VOLUNTEERS.

The next paper on the help of the League in Winning Volunteers was by Miss Manwaring, of the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, and read by Miss McCracken, of the same hospital, both sailing members. Miss Manwaring pointed out that the aim of the members of the League was to dedicate their lives to Christ and to the extension of His kingdom. Could anyone having this aim withstand the appeal for volunteers for missionary work abroad, when the services of nurses were so sorely needed and the sufferings of women and children so great?

### THE OUTLOOK OF THE FUTURE.

After an interval, Miss Overton took the chair, and Miss J. Macfee, B.A., Editor of *Nurses Near and Far*, spoke on the outlook of the future, the vision of what the League ought to be, and might do. The reason, she thought, that more was not done was that so many led such normal lives, there was so little difference between them and non-professing Christians. People should be startled by the goodness of the lives of members of the League, which should be a reflection of the life of Jesus Christ. Speaking of the need for self-sacrifice in nursing work, Miss Macfee said that in the precincts of a large London hospital she not long ago heard one nurse ask another what kind of work she was doing. She answered, "I'm on the district." The reply was: "Oh, you poor thing, how perfectly beastly. I hope you'll soon get out of it."

Looking away across the seas to the distant mission field, Miss Macfee said that in the East nurses were called upon to reproduce and build up the nursing profession and to train Christian natives. Further missionary work could only go forward in proportion as the women were won.

Again, there was another call to nurses from the Mission Field—the call of the medical profession. Had nurses any right to allow medical practitioners to go back to their work without a single nurse to help them? Yet that was being done. At the Edinburgh Missionary Conference the cry was: "Send us the very best nurses you can get, but, whatever you do,

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