

we hope the new League will unite with others in raising professional standards.

All success to the League and its Journal.

CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM NURSES' LEAGUE, HENDON BRANCH.

The First Annual General Meeting was held at Hendon on Saturday, March 25th. The attendance of members was not very good, owing, no doubt, to the bad weather, and to those who had to travel some distance this must have proved a real discomfort. However, those who came had a great treat in listening to a most interesting natural history talk by the Rev. Dr. Farran, Rector of Kingsbury.

The business of the meeting was successfully carried through, the officers for 1911-12 were elected, and one or two important points were discussed and settled. Tea was served, as usual, from 5 to 6 p.m.

The Irish Nurses' Association.

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association was held last Saturday. There was a good attendance. Many subjects of interest to the Association were brought forward and discussed. The Executive Committee are very pleased that they have been able to obtain from the Census Commissioners a definite classification under the following headings:—

1. Midwife.
2. Hospital Certificated Nurse.
3. Hospital Nurse in training (pupil).
4. Subordinate Medical Service.

The Irish nurses are very glad to get this tabulation, as heretofore in the Census they have been classed with the wardmaids and scrubbers, as Hospital Employées.

The beautiful banner which Mrs. Hirschel, of London, presented to the Association in gratitude to her nurse, Miss Elizabeth Thompson, who was trained at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, now a member of the Registered Nurses' Society, is hanging in their Reading Room, and is a joy to all the members.

THE NURSES' HOSTEL, DUBLIN.

The first monthly meeting of the House Committee was held last Saturday night, when a financial report was presented.

New members were elected on the working staff, and some resolutions were read and discussed, which the nurse members of the Committee brought forward. There is an equal number of Matrons and nurse members, and in this way the Committee hope the nurses will take an active part in the management of the Hostel.

The Florence Nightingale Memorial.

The Lord Mayor, Sir T. Vezey Strong, presided at a public meeting at the Mansion House on Friday, March 31st, in support of the Florence Nightingale Memorial. He was supported on the platform by Viscount Haldane, the Earl of Pembroke (son of the late Mr. Sidney Herbert, afterwards Lord Herbert of Lea), Minister-at-War during the Crimean War, the Hon. Sydney Holland, Mr. S. Shore Nightingale, Mr. J. G. Wainwright, Treasurer St. Thomas' Hospital, Mr. H. T. Butlin, President Royal College of Surgeons, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, and a few ladies.

In his opening remarks the Lord Mayor said that the meeting was called to consider the desirability of establishing a memorial to the greatest of Englishwomen, Florence Nightingale.

After referring to Miss Nightingale's work in the Crimea, the Lord Mayor said that it was fitting and appropriate that some permanent memorial should be raised to her. He then called on Lord Haldane, Secretary of State for War, who, he said, gave the movement the encouragement of his great position, to address the meeting.

LORD HALDANE.

Lord Haldane said that he did not often intrude himself on occasions such as this, but in connection with the movement for a memorial to Florence Nightingale it was peculiarly incumbent on the Minister responsible for the War Department to be present. What they in the Army owed to that illustrious woman it was not easy to express fully. To-day we possessed one of the finest Army Medical Services in the world. To whom did we owe that? It was largely to the spirit of her who, penetrating with her genius the obscurity of those dark days long ago, gave the impulse to, and set on foot, the movement which to-day had culminated in a wholly new state of things. In a speech which Lord Rosebery made some years ago about Cromwell he said that the most formidable of personalities was the practical mystic. He thought he might add to the category of formidable personalities that of the woman who added woman's magnetic power and charm to an immense capacity for business and organisation.

Here a lady in the audience rose and asked why women of the class of Florence Nightingale were not given the vote, but being informed by the Lord Mayor she must either sit down or retire she elected to take the latter course.

Resuming his speech, Lord Haldane said that the qualities to which he referred Miss Nightingale possessed in combination. It would be a great mistake to think that when Miss Nightingale went to her work she was impelled only by the impulse of genius. Before she was called to her work by an illustrious relative of his friend, Lord Pembroke, she had for years worked to equip herself for the task. She had studied in the hospitals of Germany and France, she had mastered all there was in those days to be mastered, and she went prepared for her work, as few people were prepared by hard labour.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)