

The Guy's Hospital Nurses' League.



The Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League had a most successful meeting on Friday, April 28th, when, according to their custom, the members dined together in the spacious and beautiful dining-room of the Nurses' Home.

Miss Swift (the late Matron) presided at the dinner, and Sisters took the head of the many tables, everything being so well organised, and the service so expeditious, that the large number present were quickly served. Dinner was a most pleasant and informal meal, and as usual when the former nurses of a training school meet once more, the warm greetings were many, and conversation never flagged. It was continued over the coffee served in the adjoining hall, and then those present passed on to the nurses' sitting-room, looking fresh and beautiful in its new spring coat of white paint from floor to ceiling, and warm red curtains, a greatly appreciated gift, as up to the present the room has been curtainless.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Miss Swift, who, on the proposition of Miss Haughton, was voted to the chair, expressed her pleasure at being amongst the members of the League once more. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and then the Chairman called on the Matron and Hon. Secretary to present the Annual Report. Before doing so Miss Haughton extended a hearty welcome to all former members of the nursing staff present, including Miss Jolley (Liverpool), Miss Bryan (Northampton), Miss Timbrell (Lowestoft), Miss Oylar (Gloucester), Miss Todd (Wandsworth), Miss Studdert (Hertford), Miss Newton (Ipswich), Miss Taylor (Watford), Miss Hyland (Buxton), and last, but not least, Miss Victoria Jones and Miss Oxford.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Miss Haughton then reported that nearly 100 new members had joined the League during the year, and that it now numbered 1,040 members, that the Recreation Cottage at Honor Oak Park has been much appreciated and used, that 90 new books had been added to the library, 40 of which had been given by Mrs. Bonsor; the Choral Society had given some excellent concerts, and the swimming bath was much used. Miss Haughton remarked that she believed amongst the probationers they had a former teacher of swimming. She hoped the members would find her out and benefit by her knowledge. The Debating Society appeared to have taken a new lease of life (she was not allowed to be present at the meetings), and they had had three spirited debates. The seventh exhibition of the Photographic Society was on view, the Cycling Club had been discontinued owing to the impossibility of riding in London now that there was so much motor traffic.

The course of post graduate lectures had been

greatly appreciated, and it was hoped to arrange another course in the autumn.

There were some alterations in the rules, the chief being the addition of Vice-Presidents, the first proposed being Viscountess Goschen, Miss Swift, and Mr. Cosmo Bonsor. Miss Haughton said that on his election as President of the Hospital Mr. Bonsor automatically retired from the position of Chairman of Council of the Nurses' League. They were therefore delighted to have him as a Vice-President of the League, in which he took the keenest interest.

It was arranged that three of the honorary or associate members of the Council should retire each year, and be eligible for re-election after a year. The subscription to the League for third-year nurses had been reduced from 15s. to 12s.

The new Nursing Guide and Register would be ready shortly.

Miss Haughton also reported that the League had lost three members by death during the past year. Miss Eva Lavy, a successful worker in connection with the Church Missionary Society at Baghdad, who was drowned in the wreck of the Kurdistan; Miss Lowenthal and Mrs. Thompson, better known to most of the members as Nurse Jenny Thomas, who had married only a short time ago.

As Mrs. Fagge, the Hon. Treasurer, was unable to be present, Miss Haughton presented the financial report, and stated that £350 had been paid off the debt on the cottage at Honor Oak Park, which reduced it to £2,020. For the first time the income from nurses' subscriptions exceeded the expenditure.

The occasion was, she said, too good to be passed by without begging. The members had contributed £45 to King Edward's Memorial; now the Florence Nightingale Memorial, the Queen Mary's Coronation Gift, to which all the Marys, Marias, etc., could subscribe, and the Memorial Hospital to Nurse Eva Lavy at Baghdad, were all objects to which those who desired were invited to subscribe.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman thought all would agree that the report was a most successful one. The League was started when the Governors gave the nurses their beautiful new home, and the present members of the staff thought that they would like past nurses, who had not had the same advantages as themselves, to come and enjoy it with them. £4,250 had been expended on the cottage at Honor Oak Park, but the old nurses had worked away, and, as they had heard, the debt had been reduced in eleven years to £2,020, and that, too, must be paid off.

But the members of the League wanted to do something away from themselves, to think of those former members of the staff now old and past work, who had fallen on evil days. They all knew how delightfully independent nurses were—and long might they continue to be so—but a proposition would be made to them by which they could help a former member of the staff needing assistance. Miss Swift said that, setting aside the untiring help of the Council and Hon. Secretary, she thought the success of the League was almost entirely due to the oneness of mind and labour of the members, who

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