

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The tenth annual meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League was held at University Hall, Gordon Square, on Tuesday, April 23rd, and there was a good attendance throughout the day, including members from almost all the large London hospitals.

The morning session began with a short devotional address from Miss E. M. Bailey, which was followed by a résumé of the work of the League by Miss A. M. Cable. As one of its first founders, Miss Cable was able to narrate how the League was started by some members of the Student Volunteer Movement, who knew of the urgent need for nurses in the foreign mission field. By reading extracts from the annual report, the speaker pointed the contrast between these small beginnings and the later developments, and then, in closing, she told some of her own recent experiences in China, to show how urgently nurses are needed in that land to-day. Only last summer, when herself under doctor's orders to take a complete rest, she was urgently summoned to nurse a fellow-worker many hours' journey away, and though not a trained nurse, for five and a half months she had been kept nursing her fellow-missionaries.

An interesting discussion on Bible study then took place, several nurses taking part; and the morning session ended with an address on "Vocation" by the Rev. E. N. Sharpe, who spoke of the vocation which comes by reason of birth in a Christian country, baptism, and membership of a Christian Church, and then showed how a more definite call may come, and how, through knowledge and prayer, one may be prepared to receive the call.

At the afternoon conversazione the hostesses were Miss Bird (Great Northern Central Hospital) and Miss Jones (formerly Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool). A message of regret for unavoidable absence had been received from Miss Davies (St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington). One feature of interest was an exhibit which illustrated the religions of China, by means of photographs, books, curios, and large charts contrasting the main doctrines of Confucianism and Christianity. An address was given by Miss E. C. Gregory on the subject "Why should I, as a Nurse, be interested in Medical Missions?" To every *Christian* the command of the great Healer must be binding, "Go ye into all the world," and never before has there been such opportunity. China is open to-day, and the god of this world will step in if Christ is not preached.

In India there is much change and unrest, and the Christian woman is being asked to come as never before, and so in Moslem lands. There is a far wider opportunity than any dreamed of in this land, wider openings for practice, a chance of being a very centre of light. A worker with a knowledge of healing starts with a great advantage. In one hospital in China even the appliances have their message, the women, on seeing eye bandages sent out by friends in England, exclaiming "What love they must have in their hearts!" In another station most friendly relations were secured by the complete cure of a chief whose life had been despaired of, and who had been carried out to die in the woods. And think, too, of the tremendous need. In one province in North China, bigger than England, there is a population of seven millions, and not one single doctor or nurse in the whole province. And in some places the ignorance and cruelty are terrible; for instance, in China, lately, a little girl was buried alive with her dead mother because she was not wanted! And this is twenty centuries after Christ!

Miss Fairfield next spoke briefly about the work of the League, dwelling particularly upon the plans for extension which are before the Committee. The work has developed so rapidly that there is urgent need for a large increase of income so that a small flat or part of a house may be taken as head-quarters for the work, that more secretarial help may be obtained, and funds forthcoming to meet the travelling expenses. Miss Fairfield pointed out how that the work is increasing on every side, and it is a problem how to meet the numerous claims, and for this reason the need is really great, for to refuse to advance means inevitably to go back.

At the evening meeting the chair was taken by Dr. Neville Bradley, of China, who read telegrams from Miss Haughton (Matron of Guy's Hospital) and Mr. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., who were both prevented at the last minute from taking their allotted part in the proceedings. In their absence the adoption of the annual report was moved by Miss Macfee, and Miss Richardson, Secretary of the League, gave an account of the year's work, drawing attention to the facts that the membership now numbers 1,695, of whom 545 are volunteers, 25 having sailed for the mission field during the year. The branches in hospitals, she pointed out, number two in London and 23 in the provinces, and she expressed the great gratitude of the Committee for all the help and encouragement given by many

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