

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Valedictory Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League were held at University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C., on Thursday, October 3rd, to bid God-speed to thirteen members sailing for the foreign mission field. The Hall was beautifully decorated, and there was a good attendance of members throughout the day.

MORNING SESSION.

Miss E. E. Overton presided at the Morning Session, the first part of which was devoted to a devotional address and a demonstration Bible Circle. The chairman, who briefly introduced M. s. Grace, the first speaker, said that the League would begin its meetings in the confidence and expectation that God would meet them there as He had done before. They came to speak again to one another of the thoughts which inspired them to think of God's love, God's hope, and they realised that it was not by machinery or organisation that they were moved to be there, but by a higher influence.

DEVOTIONAL ADDRESS.

Mrs. Grace, who spoke on the first chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, referring to St. Paul's description of himself as an apostle "by the will of God," said that each one of those going out to the mission field went as an apostle, in the sense that an apostle meant "a sent one," and that they went because they believed it to be the will of God for them. They would not dare to go otherwise. Strength of will was a great force. We were accustomed to say of a person with a strong will he or she will get what he wants by strength of will. In the same way the Will of God was a force, a terrible might, directing a purpose so powerful that it had never waned from the beginning. God's will was love in action going forward to the accomplishment of the desire which had never wavered. His *desire* was that all men should be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, and His will was a mighty thing to lay hold of, imparting the strength to co-operate with the desire. His *purpose* was that we should be His children, holy and without blame, born not only by the will of man but of God, conformed to the image of our pattern Jesus Christ. This was the fulfilment of our being. There was only one place in the world for us, the place where He wished us to be, and where God could work through us. Then, though we might not see great results of our work we were in the plan.

But even when we were living according to the purpose of His will there would come temptations which had to be met by faith. The fiery darts of the evil one must be met with the shield of faith—faith in the living God. In the assurance of that faith our sisters might go forth strong in the knowledge "If I take the wings of the morning and flee to the uttermost parts of the earth, even there Thy right hand shall hold me."

BIBLE CIRCLE.

The next thing was a demonstration of a Bible Circle led by Miss J. Macfee, B.A. First the subject to be studied was read round verse by verse, and then the leader endeavoured to find out how the verses struck the members of the circle, each of whom, with one exception, had studied the passage beforehand. It was interesting to notice that almost every member of the circle had a different point to bring to the notice of her colleagues. Each was noted by the leader, and at the end of the half-hour's study Miss Macfee summarised the result, mentioning all the different points brought out.

The audience was then invited to criticise and discuss the model demonstration given, the purpose of which was to show those who conducted Bible Circles, or were desirous of doing so, in various hospitals, the best methods of procedure. Miss Overton remarked that the members were unhurried, up to time, and definite, all points worthy of observation and imitation.

After a short interval for tea and coffee two addresses were given by members of the League.

THE WORK TO BE DONE.

Miss E. C. H. Cooke, trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and now working in the Punjab, spoke on the Medical Need and the Spiritual Need. On the first point she said that while working in the Moulton Hospital, where she was first placed, the need seemed extreme. People were often brought 200 miles in bullock carts, or on camels, suffering frightfully, for the assistance which the hospital could give them. Then she went on to another station, Montgomerywalla, where there was only a small dispensary, and she was forty miles from the nearest doctor, and where patients had to go across a jungle, or one hundred miles by train. There the need seemed even worse. From there she went temporarily to Bangalore to fill a vacancy where a nurse was urgently needed.

Again, when in the hospital at Dera Ghazi Khan, a woman came in with a tubercular knee, in a far advanced condition of the disease. It had been bad for seven years; and on being asked why she had not come before, the patient replied that it had taken months to get to the hospital, and she could not find anyone before to bring her.

On the spiritual side, the difficulties to be combated, in connection with Mohammedanism, were that it was not only a non-Christian but an anti-Christian religion. Mohammedans were taught that a Mohammedan who killed a Christian had the right to go to Paradise. Then, it was asserted that I am was good enough for and suited to the people. Englishwomen had no idea of a Mohammedan woman's position. It was impossible to describe it. It was almost that of animals. She had no rights. The girls, up to the age of eleven, were free to go about and play in the streets. They were then shut up, and high-spirited children naturally rebelled, till at last they realised that they were prisoners for the rest of their lives, except

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