

to save their noble profession from depreciation and disaster, but to make it possible to give an efficient quality of treatment as medical benefit under the Act. Unjustly ignored as we are by a negligent legislature, our duty to the sick poor is still paramount. We have got to claim a standard of nursing for them under the Act which they are too ignorant to claim for themselves; and to prevent their exploitation by so-called Benefit Nursing Societies through ignorant, untrained and inefficient women who are a growing danger to the whole community.

It is high time a Public Meeting was called to protest against cheap and shoddy nursing being provided under the so-called National Health Act, especially as it is only provided for the poor.

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

At the third of the lectures on Hinduism, delivered at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on October 22nd, Canon Weitbrecht dealt with some of the forces which have been influencing India in recent years. He spoke first of the spread of the rule of a Christian Power. This, he said, had made the various peoples of India regard themselves as one people; and, by means of increased facility for communication, equal justice for all, economic and commercial development, impartial toleration for all religions and care for material interests, had profoundly affected the whole life of the people, even in its small outward details. More especially had the spread of education influenced India, and the use of the English language in this education had had a widespread effect in welding together the mind of educated India. The second great force with which he dealt was the preaching of the Gospel, particularly through educational missions, and by systematic Christian philanthropy, such as famine relief, the care of orphans, and, above all, medical missions. In dealing with the effect of the preaching of the Gospel upon the higher classes in India, the speaker mentioned first the small body of converts won by Alexander Duff and others, whose descendants are now the backbone of the Christian Church. He then described two of the reform movements which are going on in Hindu circles—the first, the Brahmo Samaj, which is favourable to Christianity; and the other, the Arya Samaj, which is bitterly opposed. In closing, the lecturer described the effects of the Gospel upon the uneducated masses, amongst whom the “mass movements” have recently won hundreds to the Christian faith.

THE POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The First Annual Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held on October 26th at 7 p.m., at the Inns of Court Hotel, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Miss Stansfeld, Superintendent Lady Inspector, presided.

Miss Barton, Hon. Sec., in a short report, explained that the inaugural meeting of the Association had been held in July, 1907, at Chelsea Infirmary. The Association had grown so much in size and importance that it was felt advisable to reorganize its rules and regulations and place it on a self-governing basis. A ballot of the Association had been taken to elect the Hon. Officers and Committee. Miss Barton said that much work lay before the Association, as, beside other things, they had been informally asked to make suggestions as to the position of the Superintendent Nurse and also as to the proposed syllabus for the training of probationers brought forward in the north.

Miss Cockrell read a financial statement of the funds of the Association. Miss Stansfeld then announced the result of the ballot. It was as follows:—*President*, Miss Barton, Chelsea Infirmary; *Hon. Treasurer*, Miss Cockrell, Marylebone Infirmary; *Hon. Sec.*, Miss Todd, St. James's Infirmary, Balham; *Assistant Hon. Sec.*, Miss Alsop, Kensington Infirmary; *Committee*, Miss Elma Smith, Central London Sick Asylum, Hendon; Miss Hannaford, Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum; Miss Griffith, Hackney Infirmary; Miss Dodds, Bethnal Green Infirmary; Miss Dowbiggin, New Edmonton Infirmary; Miss Mowatt, Whitechapel Infirmary; co-opted to represent Provincial members, Miss Smith, Chorlton Infirmary; Miss Masters, Leicester Infirmary.

Miss Stansfeld gave an interesting address, after which all repaired to the hall to welcome the guests for the first annual dinner.

FIRST ANNUAL DINNER.

Altogether 68 sat down. The guests of the Association were Sir A. Downes, Dr. Fuller, Miss Stansfeld, Miss H. Todd, Mrs. Andrews. Other guests included the Dowager Lady Loch, Lord and Lady Plunket, Miss Gibson (of Birmingham), Dr. and Mrs. Bond, Dr. and Mrs. Grimsdale, Dr. and Mrs. Dixon, &c.

Miss Barton (as President) presided. There were no speeches. The toast of “The King” was given, and a delightful selection of music was played during dinner.

After dinner Madame Maggie Inglis, Mr. Joseph Dodds, and Dr. Dixon sang.

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