

This latter expression of opinion was heartily endorsed by all present.

At the close of the meeting tea was served and greatly enjoyed.

## THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

### ISLAM: ITS DOCTRINES.

On Wednesday, November 6th, at University Hall, Gordon Square, the Rev. Canon Weitbrecht, D.D., gave a most interesting lecture to the members of the Nurses' Missionary League on "Islam: its Doctrines."

The lecturer traced this great religion from its beginnings in the sixth century—about 600 years after the Day of Pentecost—when Mohammed, its founder, living in his native town of Mecca, had a vision of the angel Gabriel, inspiring him to recite the Koran or Mohammedan Bible. From then onwards Mohammed preached the unity of God. "There is no God but the God, and Mohammed is the apostle of God." Persecution followed, and Mohammed fled from his native town to Medina, but later he returned and conquered Mecca, and made it the centre of his religion. Not only did he organize a religious system, but also a political body, which developed so rapidly that during the century that followed not only the lands of the Near East, but almost all the Christian lands were overrun by the bearers of the sword of Islam. Even at the present time there are about 210,000,000 Moslems in Africa and the East, about two-thirds of these being under British rule.

The lecturer pointed out that the reason of the failure of the Christian Church at that time to stem the advance of Islam was its weakened condition, owing to its departure from the purity of the faith, and its many divisions by schisms. Another reason was that the Scriptures, with one or two exceptions, had not at that time been translated into the vernacular of the various countries. The extreme importance of Church unity and the translation of the Scriptures was thus emphasized by the lecturer.

The second lecture, on "Islam: its Duties; Present Condition and Effects of Missionary Work," was given on November 13th in University Hall.

## THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TRAINED NURSES.

We have received a copy of the Annual Report of the Scottish Society of Trained Nurses. Though brief, the good work accomplished appears to be just what is required by such an organization. We wish it continued success.

## THE DEPRECIATION OF DISTRICT NURSING.

In our issue of November 2nd, we published a letter from Mr. H. R. Bruxner, Hon. Secretary of the Staffordshire County Nursing Association, which appeared to us to contain many statements which required criticism, and for which we had no space in our last issue. Mr. Bruxner objected to our remarks in a previous issue in reference to the grant of £300 by the Education Committee of the Staffordshire County Council to the County Nursing Association, for the purpose of providing scholarships for the training of village midwives and nurses, a training which consists only of six months in midwifery and six months in general nursing. We observed, "We could wish that County Councils would turn their attention to granting scholarships in midwifery to nurses who are already trained, rather than expending money on increasing a class of workers who earn such infinitesimal salaries that their work must be included in that of sweated labour."

Since carefully reading Mr. Bruxner's letter we note nothing which does not confirm us in our pious aspiration.

For instance, we are asked by him in referring to these superficially trained workers, "Is not this a better profession for a girl than to go into a mill or a manufactory or a shop?"

That sentence presents the whole matter in a nutshell.

Since when has human life been held so cheap that skilled nursing which requires at least a three years' systematic training and experience *for the safety of the sick*, has been recognised as an alternative "profession" for factory hands with six months' so-called training in general nursing?

We can answer that.

Since laymen and women without any practical experience whatever have arrogated to themselves the power and responsibility of defining professional nursing standards, and in so doing have degraded the standards of skill and knowledge considered safe and sufficient by the nursing profession itself.

Again, why have these people—socially influential and well meaning, no doubt—ventured to assume such responsibility, and in their ignorance flooded the rural districts with workers who, we have no hesitation in stating, are not either qualified or safe to nurse the sick poor?

We reply because their dangerously superficial work is cheap.

Mr. Bruxner claims that because the ordinary ratepayer is called upon to waste £50 in a system of superficial training, the woman so "trained" cannot be included in the ranks of sweated labour "because she is guaranteed 16s. or 18s. a week, and moreover if she is capable and diligent, and has the good fortune to serve a local

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