

AN APPROVED SOCIETY FOR TRAINED NURSES.

We have pleasure in announcing that the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society has been approved by the National Insurance Commission; thus a Society for trained, professional women nurses can now be organized, which it is hoped may in the future provide special benefits to meet the special requirements of trained nurses.

This Society will have the one great advantage that it will maintain and guard the privacy, as far as possible, of all matters concerning the health and family history of the nurses who become members, as such matters will come before and be discussed only by the Committee of Management to be elected by the members themselves at a meeting convened for Saturday, July 27th, at 5 p.m., at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. Cards are being sent out daily from the office to those nurses who have applied to become members of the Society. All information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, T.W.N.F.S., 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

A very delightful afternoon was spent by some 250 nurses on Tuesday, at the Garden Party kindly given by the Bishop of London to members of the Nurses' Missionary League and their friends. Those present represented practically every large hospital in London, while some came from missionary training homes and hope to start shortly for the mission field, and others were home on furlough from Africa, India, and Syria. The beautiful gardens of Fulham Palace, with their spacious lawns and the cool shade of the trees, were thoroughly enjoyed, the afternoon being exceptionally sunny and fine. After tea, and seeing over the gardens, the party assembled for the addresses. The Bishop of London was, unfortunately, prevented by loss of voice from making a long speech, but he most cordially welcomed all present as nurses, and especially as nurses connected in some way with missionary work. He dwelt upon the wonderful work of medical missions which he had seen on his recent tour in Egypt and the Near East, and referred to the tremendous influence which is exerted by missionary nurses in all lands.

An address was then given by Dr. Arthur Lankester, of Peshawar, N. India, who described his work in that station, which stands at the entrance to the Khyber Pass, on the way to the great land of Afghanistan, which is still

closed to missionary work. He especially showed how medical work acts as a pioneer agency, finding a way where no other missionaries can go; and he emphasised the great need for more nurses. In his own hospital of 100 beds there is now no European nurse, while nurses are urgently needed in other stations, and especially at Nasik and Anand, both in West India.

WEDDING BELLS.

The forthcoming marriage, to take place next month, is announced of Miss Mackenzie, Matron of the Dunedin Hospital, New Zealand, and the Rev. Mr. Balfour, minister of the First Church in Dunedin, one of the leading clergymen in the Dominion, and a cousin of the late Robert Louis Stevenson. Miss Mackenzie has only held her post for a year, as it will be remembered she was selected, after training and experience at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and entered upon her duties last July. From New Zealand comes the expression of opinion that "Mr. Balfour has made a very wise choice, but New Zealand loses a very good Matron." In wishing Miss Mackenzie a very happy future, we feel sure her professional knowledge will be turned to useful account in the country of her adoption, perhaps in a wider sphere than within hospital walls.

NORTHERN POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

NURSING IN THE LARGER WORKHOUSES.

The most important subject discussed at the Northern Poor Law Conference, held last week at Tynemouth, was brought forward by Dr. Whillis, of Newcastle, on the training of Poor Law nurses and the need for standardisation of examinations.

Dr. Whillis said it was most important that vacancies for probationer nurses should be filled by the most suitable candidates. Outside influence on behalf of certain candidates was very often a source of danger, and he regretted to say, from personal experience, that the filling of appointments by influence and not fitness was the cause of many failures amongst the nurses, and caused a great deal of anxiety to superior officers.

All appointments of sisters and charge nurses should be made by Boards of Guardians under the guidance of the medical superintendent and hospital matron, or medical officers and superintendent nurses. He was convinced, however, that a better selection of probationer nurses would be made by the medical officer and matron, or superintendent nurse, as they alone knew the details of the work and what was expected; and as they were responsible for the training of such probationers, fitness alone would count.

The training for nurses was of the greatest importance, and a great responsibility rested upon those entrusted with their welfare.

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