

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

THE EXHIBITION.

At the Missionary Exhibition held by the Nurses' Missionary League at the Holborn Hall on April 30th and May 1st, the special features of interest were the Indian Zenana, African Hut, and the Chinese House containing two beds with real Chinese pillows and two little patients appropriately dressed in Chinese costume. Other stalls contained curios from Ceylon, Moslem lands and South America, drugs used by native doctors in India and China, and models of mission hospitals at Bannu and Palwal. The "Nurses' Missionary League Stall" contained specimens of literature published by the League, and a series of photos taken at the summer camps held each year since 1907, as well as postcards showing the house at Sandsend where the next Camp is to be held from June 14th to 28th this year. Two maps were also displayed, one of the British Isles showing the branches of the League, and another of the world, with scarlet flags to denote the stations where 212 N.M.L. members are working in the mission field. The missionary interest of the members was also shown by the series of photos and curios showing the Mission Hospitals in which beds are supported by the "Our Own Missionary Fund." Vivid touches of colour were lent to the Hall by the foreign dresses of some of the helpers, including Chinese, Indians, West African, while much interest was aroused by the South American Indian, and the Moslem lady in her long white *burka*.

Throughout the two days short addresses were given at intervals. One of the principal speakers was Dr. W. H. Graham Aspland, who narrated with vivid detail the work done by the mission staff in stamping out the plague in Manchuria, and also his experiences in Red Cross work during the Revolution of a year ago. In another talk he described conditions of life in Labrador, where he had worked for eight years before going to China. Medical mission work in the Far East was also described by Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Bell. India was represented by Miss Eleanor Dodson, M.D., Miss R. Glanville, M.B.B.S., the Rev. K. W. S. Kennedy, M.B., Ch.B., Miss Frodsham, Miss Peddar, and Miss Pearse. The two first-named described the actual working of a Mission hospital, the crowds of friends who accompany the patients, the arrangements for cooking and nursing, and many other details.

The great Continent of Africa was not forgotten, for Mrs. Douglas Hooper, L.R.C.P. and S., and Dr. T. Jays told of the tremendous needs there, the fearful callousness towards suffering which allows the people to cast out the sick ones to the forest to die there and be eaten by the hyenas, and the great lack of medical workers.

Nor was South America neglected, for the Rev. F. T. Thornburgh and Dr. Lindsay spoke of the great openings there, and pleaded for more workers. One other eloquent appeal was made

by the Rev. C. T. Erickson, who has only recently come from the seat of the Balkan war, and pleaded for sympathy and workers for the heroic race of Albania.

Two other features of the Exhibition were the Missionary Study Bands held each morning, which had interesting discussions on the book called "The Outcastes' Hope," and the Chinese Dispensary Scenes, which gave a vivid idea of the difficulties of diagnosis and treatment which are encountered by the medical missionary.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Mrs. Creighton, who presided at the Annual Meeting, which was held on the evening of May 1st, said that no one who considers at all seriously the work in the foreign mission field could fail to be struck with the opportunities which it affords to nurses. To one in touch with the Master nursing work afforded one of the finest opportunities of bearing the witness of a Christian life, which taught the Gospel more eloquently than the most finished speech could do.

Nurses were justly proud of their profession, and the term was used truly and wisely, yet sometimes professional nurses were somewhat of a trial. One of the first nurses who nursed her told her after two days that she was not at all an interesting case. The patients she really liked to nurse were mad old gentlemen. She did her duty, said Mrs. Creighton, but she did not get near love.

Again, the work itself was so entrancing, and nurses were so anxious to do it thoroughly that they were sometimes in danger of losing sight of its spirit.

The mission field proved what a tremendous help trained nurses could be. In the East women were trying to free themselves from their shackles, and nurses got so close to their patients that they could help them greatly.

Again, the training of native nurses offered tremendous opportunities. Were nurses sometimes apt to think that the girls married just as they became useful? Think of all those girls might do in bearing witness in their own homes.

There was sometimes resistance on the part of nurses when missionary societies required them to have special training for their work as missionaries before going out to the foreign field, but surely such special work needed preparation at home, so that while they were tending bodies they might also minister to the spirit by their own deeply religious lives. Those nurses who were not ready to go abroad themselves could bring before others the need for nurses in the mission field.

Miss J. MacFee, B.A., the indefatigable Editor of *Nurses Near and Far*, presented the annual report and welcomed Miss Jolley of Liverpool as a Vice President, and Miss A. C. Gibson and Miss Webb, Assistant Matron at Guy's Hospital, as members of the General and Executive Committees, and Miss E. Morten as Hon. Treasurer. She also stated that the total number of members and associates of the League is 1,907, an increase

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)