

is very happy to welcome you. I am myself individually happy, because I have been the recipient of much kindness from those of your craft. About two years ago I nearly died from an attack of gallstones and was for three weeks in the Garfield Memorial Hospital at Washington. There were forty-two nurses there and I made the acquaintance of all. They used to sing every morning at seven o'clock opposite the room where I had to lie, and I asked them if they would not let me choose the hymns. So every morning they would all sing for me, and lying there the thought came to my mind, the dearest affection of the human heart is the love of a mother, and the nurse to me became the mother. The kindness that a woman can bestow on anybody that is helpless and weak, probably not going to live, is only equalled by that love of a mother. I think the nurse becomes the mother. And the gratitude that you arouse in men in hospitals, and the power and influence that you have over affairs because you have the opportunity of talking to men in those conditions, is simply marvellous.

Another topic. I have just written a letter to Dr. Anna Shaw, telling her that a couple of years since Mrs. Riddle and I were in Hyde Park, in London. There were one hundred and twenty thousand people there at the time. My wife had not believed in Women Suffrage until she heard Dr. Shaw's speech. After the address she became a Suffragette. And I added in the letter that our five sons have all pledged themselves, when they get old enough, to vote in favour of Women Suffrage.

These and other great things that are coming to pass in the world you nurses have the most practical and powerful influence in bringing about. There is no doubt but that you will get Women Suffrage, but you will get it because of the class of women that you are, that are ministering to us men when we are in distress, to take the place of our mothers who are dead and gone.

#### AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

We are glad to hear that great interest is being evinced from all over the country in the Conference to be convened by the Association of Approved Societies on November 26th next, in London, to discuss the Nursing of Insured Persons. The Conference will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, and the subject opened for discussion by the reading of several short papers. Those wishing to be present may apply to the Hon. Secretary of the Conference, Association of Approved Societies, 82, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

## NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

### THE VALEDICTORY MEETINGS.

In our issue last week we gave a short report of the valedictory meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League, but were unable to give any lengthy account of the various addresses delivered each of which was in its own way full of interest.

The great feature of the gathering was that the thoughts of all present were continually turning to the great mission fields of Africa and the East. How could it be otherwise when there were present members at home after some years of service from places so far separate as Marsovan (Turkish Arabia), Dohnavur (S. India), and Toro (Central Africa); and when seven others were saying farewell before starting for distant lands, to say nothing of the twenty others who have already started or were otherwise prevented from being at the meetings? Even the opening devotional address and the chairman's remarks had in view the spiritual preparation for a missionary life while the Bible Circle discussed the subject of "The Missionary Command."

It was, however, in the addresses from those who had been abroad that conditions of work on the mission field were so vividly described. In the afternoon Miss C. Watney (trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital) described the well-equipped Hospital at Mengo, Uganda, with its men's and women's wards, private wards and European block, where she has been working as Sister. One great part of the work is training as nurses the African girls and boys who come about the age of thirteen or fourteen. They are very raw material, largely uneducated, but still they are very adaptable. They give good help, but until they are better educated and realise more fully what is required than most do at present they can hardly be called qualified nurses. It is, however, well worth while to train them, and wonders have already been done when one considers the upbringing and heredity which these boys and girls have had. The patients are intensely grateful for all that is done for them, and some of them come from great distances to the hospital. In some cases they are more like animals than human beings, as for instance one poor woman who had been thrown out by her relatives to be eaten by leopards because she was so ill that they had given her up as incurable. Another very important work is done in the European block where there come as patients many men whose business takes them to Central Africa, but who in times of sickness have no one to look after them.

Miss M. Williams (trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby) represented another part of Africa, Sierra Leone. Here her work had been among the Creoles, a people who talk in "pidgin" English. In the Hospital with its three wards the most important work, as in Toro, was the training of the nurses. There was much encouragement in the way these girls, most of whom are Christians,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)