

to San Francisco, so that £80 should provide for a three weeks' stay in the States. A party travelling together, with everything arranged for their comfort by a Tourist Company, will, we feel sure, save no end of worry, and add greatly to the enjoyment of the trip. As soon as Miss Dock arrives, we shall know further details.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

LONDON BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the London Branch was held on February 7th at the Royal Institute of Hygiene, London, W., the President of the London Branch (Miss Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital) being in the Chair. The President of the Union, Miss Amy Hughes also attended. Miss Haughton welcomed the large gathering of members to the first annual meeting of the United London Branch. She hoped that next year it would be necessary to take a much larger hall, possibly the Albert Hall! The outlook for the Nursing profession was changing very rapidly, and the need for co-operation between the different branches of the profession was felt more and more strongly. In the Union were united all these different branches and through co-operation it was possible to obtain that wider outlook which was so necessary for the nurse of to-day, and so maintain the ideals of the profession in its highest development.

There was one of the methods by which the Union sought to co-operate with other forms of social work, that appealed to her personally very much, and that was "The utilization of the special experience of Nurses for the public good." Nurses undoubtedly had great opportunities for acquiring special knowledge, not possible to other workers, and they ought to make the most use of this. She felt sure the Union would be of great value to the profession and to the community, and that it was now established on a firm basis, and would grow and flourish.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were read by Miss Ashley, Hon Branch Secretary, and Miss Alsop, Branch Treasurer. Miss Gibson (late Matron, Birmingham Infirmary) in moving the adoption of the report, said that while no one welcomed the wider outlook for women more than she did, she could not help feeling that there was a danger of losing something of the spirit that had animated such women as Mrs. Wardroper, Miss Crossfield, and last, and perhaps greatest, Miss Nightingale. It was because she felt that the National Union of Trained Nurses was helping to bring back that spirit into the Nursing profession, that she had worked for it, and would continue to work for it.

Mrs. H. Scharlieb seconded the adoption of the Annual Report, and said that she felt very strongly the need of a strong professional organization, which would also help and protect its members.

The London Branch Committee for 1914, was then elected. The nominations received were very representative, and many leading matrons had consented to serve.

The Chairman gave notice that a course of four post graduate lectures had been arranged by the London Committee, the first three, on Venereal Disease, would be given by Dr. Hilda Clark in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Saturday afternoons, February 28th, March 14th, and 28th, at 3.15 p.m. The fourth, on the Nursing of Venereal Cases by Miss Stirling of the London Lock Hospital, date and place to be announced later. She also gave notice that any member who would like to be visited by a member if ill, could send a post card to the London Branch Secretary who would arrange it.

Miss Pye (Central Secretary) in giving the address said that she felt much honoured in having been asked to speak to London members on the aims and future of the Union. She gave a short sketch of the evolution of the Nursing profession, which was nearly as old as Christianity, and had been carried on in a noble and devoted spirit by the religious sisterhoods, which were centres of many forms of social work and activities. After the dissolution of the religious houses, nursing fell into disrepute, from which Florence Nightingale and many other devoted women had raised it. The extraordinarily rapid increase in the numbers since Miss Nightingale established her training school had led to great danger of the corporate spirit of the profession being lost. There was a corporate responsibility as well as individual, and to meet this call the National Union of Trained Nurses had been formed. Nurses were too busy to take an active interest in anything unless it was brought very near them, which was why centralized societies did not get all the support they deserved, but this Union by establishing a rapidly increasing number of self governing local branches having representation on the Central body was meeting the need among nurses for co-operation, education, and self-expression.

There were other societies for nurses, and one of them—the Nurses' Union—was constantly confused with the National Union of Trained Nurses. The Nurses' Union was a religious society, corresponding in scope with the Guild of St. Barnabas, the Catholic Nurses' Guild, &c. These societies were doing great work in bringing back the vocation as spirit into the profession; and the National Union wanted the members of all these Societies who were eligible for membership to join it as the professional Union which could unite all creeds for a common purpose—that of keeping up the ideals of the profession and raising its standard. The government of the National Union is in the hands of the fully trained nurse; and is constitutional. The committees are elected by the members; and as government is by majority of votes of members of committees, all who think that any rule of the Union is not in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)