

A FRIENDLY GATHERING.

The many friends of Miss L. L. Dock were delighted to have the opportunity of meeting her once more at the At Home given in her honour at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., on February 27th. They found her as refreshing as ever, spontaneous, delightful, sincerely pleased to meet her English friends, and, as always, brimful of the love of humanity, which finds expression in a hundred ways, devised in her clever brain, and furthered by her ready pen, and by her unselfish bestowal of personal service on the causes which she has at heart. It was a happy and friendly party, at which the all-important subject of the forthcoming Nursing Congress at San Francisco figured largely.

THE NURSES' CONCERT.

The Grand Concert given by the Nurses' Choral and Social League in Kensington Town Hall, on February 26th, went off splendidly. The Mayor and Mayoress were present, together with many Matrons. The nurses, both as soloists and in chorus, evinced a wonderful amount of well-trained talent, and did great credit to their teachers. Mrs. Carreg McGowan will give an "At Home" to the League on March 12th. Colonel Bruce Porter, M.D., will speak at 9 p.m., and there will be music, tea, and coffee.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Nurses' Missionary League held a week-end Conference from February 28th to March 2nd, at the China Inland Mission House, by kind permission of the Secretary. Twelve Members were able to stay in the House, while numbers from different Hospitals were present at various times. Practically all the large Hospitals (with two exceptions) were represented at some of the meetings and throughout the time the greatest interest and keenness were shown. Most of the meetings dealt with devotional subjects, the speakers including Walter Sloan, Esq. (Secretary China Inland Mission), Dr. Henry Hodgkin, Mr. Darcy Smith, Miss M. F. Daniel, Miss Richardson, and Miss Macfee (respectively Secretary and Editor of N.M.L.), while the Conference was fortunate in having as Hostess Mrs. Douglas Thornton, who from personal experience in the Mission field, was able to give many helpful suggestions, and to make real to those present the conditions of life in other lands. The presence of members at home from Persia, China and India also brought frequently to mind the other Missionary members throughout the world, who now number over 210.

Two of the meetings of special interest were those which took the form of discussions. On Saturday morning the subject was "The possibilities of the

League in Hospital." A paper was read from one Hospital, and representatives from several other branches joined in the discussion. The forming of Bible Circles and Missionary Bands were discussed and the value of both were amply testified to by those who had already taken part in such. Many difficulties of organising branches in Hospitals, especially those connected with the frequent change of times of duty, and with making the work known among probationers soon after arrival in Hospital, were brought forward. In spite of all these questions, however, and though it was recognised that weariness and pressure of professional work often make very great obstacles, the experience of those present was that the efforts put forth were well worth while, and that branches in Hospitals are quite possible. The one requisite is that there must be as Secretary a nurse who is good at her professional work, adaptable, and above all, really keen on the League.

At the discussion on "How to prepare for Missionary service," Mrs. Douglas Thornton introduced the subject, and dwelt first of all upon the necessity for a real, personal knowledge of God, which was the one great essential for making Him known to others. Second to this, Mrs. Thornton put *character* preparation, and mentioned as requisite points: (1) adaptability, the trying to realise the point of view of other people, and the learning to get on with everyone; (2) a sense of humour; (3) a teachable spirit and willingness to learn from others who may not have our professional knowledge but still do know the conditions in the country where we are to work; (4) handiness, ability to do all kinds of things. Speaking lastly of intellectual preparation, Mrs. Thornton dwelt on the need for thorough knowledge of the Bible, and ability to put our faith into words, and also on the great need of learning something about the faiths of those among whom we expect to work abroad. These points were emphasized by members present, during the discussion, stress being chiefly laid on the need for Bible and Missionary study.

In the afternoon of Monday a most interesting feature of the "At Home" was a short talk from Miss Yu, a Chinese nurse, who spoke from personal experience of the need of her fellow country-women. She emphasized above all the great need for those who go out as Missionaries to live lives absolutely consistent with the message which they tell.

The sense of world-wide unity in the League was specially felt at the close of the Monday morning meeting, when intercession was offered for members in many distant lands, including the Congo, China, and the Gilbert Islands, and also for members in the homeland; and especially for the forthcoming meetings of the League, including the All Day Working Party at Guy's Hospital (March 23rd); the Annual Meetings (May 1st); and the Camp (June 13th to 27th). Particulars of any of these gatherings can be had from the Secretary, Miss H. Y. Richardson, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.

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