

LEAGUE OF ST. JOHN'S HOUSE NURSES.

A General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses was held on May 14th at 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, the President was in the chair, and Miss A. Seignoir, Hon. Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, and presented the business for consideration.

Three new members were elected. A letter was received from Dr. Cox, Secretary of the British Medical Association in reply to a resolution sent by the League to the Association drawing attention to the facility with which it is possible for drug takers to obtain such drugs as morphia on old medical prescriptions, and asking whether it would be possible to counteract this evil by dating prescriptions for a definite period.

Dr. Cox wrote that the question was carefully considered by the Medico-Political Committee of the Association, and had been discussed before, but the Committee did not feel able to adopt the course suggested, and pointed out that once a prescription passed into the hands of a patient it became his property.

A letter was read from Miss M. Burr, relative to sending a delegate to the International Congress of Nurses at San Francisco in 1915. It was generally felt that the cost was too great for the League to undertake, and it was resolved to wait till nearer the time of the Congress, as possibly some member of the League might be attending who would be willing to represent it.

It was agreed to concentrate on the maternity nursing exhibit to be organized by the League and sent to San Francisco.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was resolved to send it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a covering letter urging upon his consideration the views expressed at the meeting that for the safety of the sick poor the nurses provided out of State funds should be efficiently trained, and that in order to secure such nurses they should be adequately paid.

RESOLUTION.

"The League of St. John's House Nurses, at a General Meeting held on May 14th, observes with pleasure that an Exchequer grant is to be made towards nursing in connection with the National Health Insurance. It desires respectfully to urge upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer that any Nursing Association which is subsidized by a State grant should be required to maintain an adequate standard of nursing, and that the most satisfactory method of securing this would be that the Nurses' Registration Bill now before the House of Commons regulating the qualifications of nurses, and providing for their registration should be passed into law without delay."

After the meeting tea was served and old friendships renewed, and new ones made.

ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, is being held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., as we go to press with the President, Sir John Jardine in the chair. The annual report this year notes a decline of 541 in the ordinary membership of the Association. The aggregate credit balance at the end of 1913 was £123 6s. 11d. The Central Executive Committee express their grateful recognition to Dr. James McColl and his associate editors, Dr. F. J. Powell and Dr. Ralph Brown, for the valuable time and labour they gratuitously give to the journal of the Association. A new feature has been introduced by the publication of prize essays written in competition by members of the Association on subjects of popular and professional interest, which are a means of encouraging literary effort on the part of attendants, nurses, and others.

A Bill to amend the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, as regards earlier retirement on pension, especially in the case of women, and the definite inclusion in the first class of established officers of all whose duties bring them into close contact with patients, was introduced into the House of Commons by Sir John Jardine in 1913, but it was found impossible to make much progress with it. Mr. Duncan Millar, in co-operation with Sir John Jardine, was successful in securing the incorporation in the Scottish Mental Deficiency and Lunacy Act, Section 7 of the Amending Bill, a provision that time served in a Parochial Asylum, or in the lunatic ward of a Poor House should count to the credit of an established officer or servant in an Asylum in Scotland. The General Board of Lunacy for Scotland, as the result of litigation between it and the District Lunacy Board for Scotland, is now prepared to recognise the claims of tradesmen attendants under certain conditions, to be included in Class I.

The following nurses and attendants received medals for long and meritorious service:—

GOLD MEDALS.

Mr. A. A. Williams, Hanwell Asylum, with 38 years and 6 months' continuous service in one asylum. Now inspector.

Miss J. Towns, Glasgow Royal Asylum, with 35 years' continuous service in one asylum. Now Charge Nurse.

SILVER MEDALS.

Mr. J. Walters, Oxford County Asylum, with 37 years and 10 months' continuous service in one asylum. Now Head Attendant.

Miss A. Cornaby, Holloway Sanatorium, with 25 years and 6 months' continuous service in that institution. Now Head Nurse.

BRONZE MEDALS.

Mr. J. Jones, Glamorgan County Asylum, Head Attendant; Mr. J. Duke, Notts County Asylum, Head Attendant; Mr. J. J. Kehoe, Cork District Asylum, Charge Attendant; Miss A. Munro, Glasgow District Asylum, Charge Nurse.

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