

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The summer general meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., on Saturday, July 3rd. The fact that the hospital and the nurses trained in its school were bearing an honourable part in the present war was evident first on crossing the Square, where convalescent soldiers, under treatment in the hospital, in their blue army suits and red ties were a conspicuous and picturesque feature. The President, Miss Cox-Davies, in the Chair, and Miss Musson amongst the members, were in the uniform of Principal Matrons in the Territorial Force Nursing Service, which was also represented by many Sisters and Nurses. There were also to be seen the uniform of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and its Reserve, and of the Reserve of the Royal Naval Nursing Service, all of which gave the meeting a very martial air.

Before the meeting opened the President proposed that a vote of condolence should be sent by the League to Mrs. Howard Marsh (formerly Sister Abernethy), on the death of her husband, Professor Howard Marsh, late Master of Downing College, Cambridge. This was carried in silence, the members rising in their places.

The President also proposed that the congratulations of the League should be sent to Miss Phoebe F. Watt, and Miss H. Hartigan, who had been awarded the Royal Red Cross, and to Miss E. M. Hansard. This was carried by acclamation.

After the minutes had been read by Miss Beatrice Cutler, General Secretary, and confirmed, the Treasurer, Mrs. Shuter, presented her report, which showed a balance at the Bank and in hand of £40 13s. 3d., and a Reserve Fund of £107 2s. 8d. The President stated that it had been suggested to her unofficially that this reserve should be invested in the War Loan, and this was unanimously agreed to with enthusiasm.

The General Secretary stated in her report that 76 new members had joined the League since last July. The League now numbered over 800 members.

The President, who proposed that the Secretary's Report should be accepted, said the new membership was a record for any one year. One could not help thinking what a joy it would have been to its founder, the late Miss Isla Stewart, to know how the League was increasing, and that the members all over the world were doing such good work.

Mrs. Matthews, who presented the Report of the Benevolent Fund, stated that no expenditure had been incurred, and the balance at the Bank was £62 os. 7d.

THE ISLA STEWART MEMORIAL FUND.

Mrs. Shuter then presented the report of the Isla Stewart Memorial Fund, stating that she had received, during the year, £44 4s. 6d. and the

Standing Committee had on the previous day decided to purchase £100 of stock in the new War Loan, for which they had in hand £91 16s. 5d. The whole of the £500 which the Committee had aimed at collecting and investing was now in hand with the exception of £8 4s. With the £500 invested and successfully placed out at interest in a little more than a year the Isla Stewart Memorial would be an accomplished fact.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Standing Committee, said the first award would be made in January, 1917, as the interest must be in the bank before this could be done. The report was adopted.

STATE REGISTRATION.

Miss Vergette, in the absence of Miss Milne, presented an interesting report on State Registration of Nurses, mentioning the demonstration of the need for nursing legislation afforded to the country during the present war.

Miss Vergette also reported the Resolution moved at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, by Miss Musson, which affirmed that the mobilisation of the nursing profession owing to the war had demonstrated the absolute necessity for a standard of nursing proficiency.

On discussion being invited, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that the position of the Nurses' Registration Movement was certainly satisfactory. There had been a large number of converts, as the unsatisfactory conditions of nursing organisation outside the Regular and Territorial Nursing Services was widely realised.

Mrs. Fenwick reported the action taken by the National Council of Trained Nurses in this connection, and drew the attention of the meeting to the new danger threatened by the attempt, without consulting the profession, to get the President of the Education Department to register nursing schools, and not trained nurses, and thus deprive the nursing profession of all personal responsibility concerning their educational standards, and power to maintain discipline in their own ranks. Mrs. Fenwick hoped that by a forcible expression of opinion in the right quarter those in favour of State Registration of Nurses would be able to prevent this new attempt to deprive the nursing profession of a just measure of legal status, as they had done all previous attempts at coercion. Anyway, the latest attack would be opposed, as all others had been, let us hope with equal success. The meeting warmly applauded this determination.

In connection with the extension of No. 1 General Hospital, T.F., to 1,050 or more beds, the President made an appeal for twenty-five more Bart's nurses; also for medical comforts and equipment not provided by the War Office.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews then gave an interesting account of a visit she had paid to Boulogne with Miss Cutler in the spring, when they had visited the Bart's nurses at work there. Everything was in khaki, including the ambulances, of which they saw 360 or more at one time. She said

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