

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

VALEDICTORY MEETINGS.

EVENING SESSION.

At the closing session of the Valedictory Meetings the chair was taken by Major McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., T., who spoke of the splendid work of the military nurses in France, which he had seen during a recent visit. He then introduced five of the "Sailing Members," who each briefly told of her call to missionary work and the station to which she was hoping to sail. Very various were the posts described. Miss D. Cox told of Bannu, N. India, where last year over 31,000 individual cases were dealt with, and although there are five medical workers she will be the only trained nurse. Miss A. Sharpe was going as matron of the men's hospital at Shanghai, a very responsible post, while Miss E. A. Taylor hoped to go to a tiny up-country station in North China. Miss E. Haward was proceeding to a women's hospital of forty beds in Central China, and Miss M. Jones hoped to carry on, in a three-roomed mud cottage, pioneer work which was only started last year in Northern Rhodesia. While going to such varied stations, all were alike in one thing, their earnest appeal for prayer to support them in their work. Miss Richardson then read short messages from four of the remaining seven sailing members, and proceeded to show an interesting series of lantern slides illustrative of the various stations to which the members were setting forth.

Miss C. Ironside, M.B., gave a graphic account of medical work in Persia, specially emphasising the great distances from which patients had to be brought, and the often disastrous results of native treatment. She told of one boy with a badly fractured thigh, brought a two days' journey on the back of a donkey; and of a little girl whose damaged foot was bandaged up so tightly by the so-called doctor that all circulation ceased and it had to be amputated. After dwelling upon the wonderful results of the medical work in opening the way for evangelistic work, she spoke of the Persian and Armenian girls who had been trained as nurses, and who had in a most splendid way carried on the work during the recent enforced absence of the missionaries from their posts. One, who was hoping to complete her training as a doctor, had performed operations which she had never attempted before, and had saved the lives of at least four women. In concluding, Dr. Ironside pleaded for a recruit for the women's hospital at Isfahan, where there is at present no trained nurse.

The closing devotional address was given by the Rev. H. R. Anderson, who took as his subject the words, "Leaves . . . for the healing of the nations." Leaves, in autumn, he said, represent two views—the backward look to the beauty of summer, and the forward look to the future promise of spring. The outsider sees simply waste and destruction. This is the view that

apprises everything at its market value, that regards war simply as carnage and missionaries as lunatics—that dwells upon the madness of the Cross. The deeper view is that which sees that the leaves, though fallen and wafted away, carry with them something which abides. They take with them the life and colour of the sun, and by their falling they enrich the soil and give back to future ages colour and beauty and freshness. A spiritual reality lies behind all this. Our Lord said, "I am the Vine, my Father is the Husbandman." We are branches of this Vine, and every sacrifice, every act of service, represents the falling of the leaves which will enrich the world for time and for eternity. Those who are going out as missionaries are making such a sacrifice. There is a most exquisite beauty in an Eastern sunrise, but it is as nothing compared with the joy of seeing the likeness of our Master dawn in the souls of those who are won to Him. The results in the mission field prove that the Tree of Life is not a worn-out memory, but a living Tree. Those who go abroad do not go alone, but they go in fellowship with the living Christ. Here, too, at home, there is much to be done, especially in connection with the National Mission. There is hope for the Church yet, because it is feeling its failure. Again it is a case of the fallen leaves, for humility means "on the ground." The Church has largely lost the mark of the Cross, and therefore bears little fruit. If to regain it entails much sacrifice, God help us all to make it.

PRESENTATION.

Mrs. Balstone, who for so long has acted as Hon. Secretary of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League, and has now resigned the position, was entertained at tea by Miss Forrest at the Victoria Nurses' Home, and it says much for the appreciation of the members of her service that even in these strenuous times twenty-five of them managed to be present to meet her. Tea was served at little tables in the beautiful garden of the Home, and during the afternoon Miss Forrest, at the request of the members, and as a token of their affection, presented Mrs. Balstone, who is going out with her husband to Secondee, with a silver watch having an illuminated dial, with wrist strap, the watch being specially made for use in hot climates. Mr. Balstone warmly acknowledged the gift on behalf of his wife. As he has for years been resident in the Colony, and is a much-respected member of the community, Mrs. Balstone goes out under happy auspices, and will, no doubt, have much of interest to relate to the League, both by her pen, while away, and by word of mouth on her return.

Miss C. H. Mayers, the Hon. Secretary of the Imperial Nurses' Club, is appealing for £5,000, to meet initial expenses. The club is to be opened shortly at 137, Ebury Street, S.W. [1]

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