

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Autumn Re-union of the Nurses' Missionary League took place on Wednesday, October 31st, at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C. The Evening Session, to the great regret of the members, was cancelled, owing to the uncertain safety of the moonlight evening.

THE MORNING SESSION.

Before the morning session hospitality was dispensed, as usual, in the shape of hot coffee and cakes, most welcome to many of the members who live at some distance away.

The proceedings opened with the National Anthem, and Miss Richardson, the Secretary, gave out various notices connected with the League. One very important one was the sale of work to be held on November 17th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Sloane Gardens House, 52, Lower Sloane Street, S.W. 1, and also one on a smaller scale on the 24th at the same place.

Nurses were asked to collect material and to come and purchase as more funds were essential. The Secretary also recommended various books for spiritual reading, especially "The Greatest Adventure," by Rev. E. S. Woods, M.A., C.F., and also Mr. W. E. S. Holland's "Call of the World." She concluded her remarks by saying that at the close of the war she was convinced that nurses would offer themselves in splendid numbers for Mission work.

Miss E. E. Overton, Somerville College, next spoke on "The Call of the N.M.L." She said it would be interesting if it could be known what first drew each individual nurse to join the League.

Some years ago there were more doctors than nurses in the mission field. She was not quite sure how this state of things stood at present. The N.M.L. was essentially an organisation to call out nurses for missionary work. She was glad to think they had never been led off this fundamental principle by side tracks. The League existed primarily for the calling out of volunteers.

The Rev. E. S. Woods, C.F., spoke on "Truth in the Inner Life," and his address will not be easily forgotten by those who listened.

He said that though he had not found it easy to leave his work at Sandhurst in order to be present, he had counted it worth while. "It was a good thing to be compelled to knock off. Life became so cluttered up with doing that there was no time for thinking. This was the day of opportunities. There was the need for grit in every direction. Our only hope for the future lay in Christianity. True thinking was most important, and we must "beware of making God out of our own little infinite."

A modern writer had said we were "always locking round for something other than God." He urged his audience to read "The Jesus of History" (Glover). We must get back to Christ, which would involve three things. (1) Thinking. He was inclined to believe that women think more

than men. (2) Thorough study of the New Testament. He knew he was speaking to busy people, but it was always the busiest people who succeed in doing things. (3) The way of common life. If we were to bring Christianity into our daily lives, it was certain there would have to be a pretty big alteration; but we must be prepared to take risks. It was a great and glorious adventure. We must rethink God on Christ's lines and reconstruct our lives.

Ten minutes' interval was then spent in social intercourse and light refreshments.

The Rev. E. S. Woods then spoke on Spiritual Reality. First, by getting away from self-delusion by self-knowledge. It was necessary for effective work that we should know our limitations.

There was no one without a vocation. The one thing worth while was to be of use, either by living or by dying.

Service was not so important as the giving of self.

That was true even in the highly specialised profession of a nurse. We should be prepared to go to all lengths, so that we might be less unfit to do God's work in the world. We must all do our bit in this great adventure.

The Session concluded with intercession.

THE AFTERNOON CONVERSAZIONE.

The afternoon conversazione was, as usual, a time for meeting old friends and for making new ones. Members were present who had worked in China, India, Africa and Asia Minor, and little groups gathered round them, and around Dr. Catherine Ironside, of Persia, to hear their accounts of their work in distant lands. Mrs. Sturge, one of the hostesses, spoke a few words of welcome to all present, and then Miss J. Macfee gave a *résumé* of the history of the League. She told of the early beginnings in 1903, when the idea of such a League was formed in the minds of four women who had felt the great call for nurses in mission hospitals, and of a conversation between two of these, Miss Overton and Miss Cable, of China, held on a bench in Hyde Park, from which the League ultimately grew into being. From the very first the aim had been to have branches in hospitals run by the Nurses themselves. In the autumn of 1903 four such branches had been formed, and gradually more and more had been started, spreading to provincial hospitals in 1906. The war, which many people feared would stop all meetings, had rather brought fresh opportunities, and the branches had never been more living than at the present time, when members were constantly trying new methods. After mentioning three things which had done much to keep the scattered members in touch with one another—the *Bible Study Notes*, started in 1905, *Nurses Near and Far*, first published in 1906, and the annual Camps, first held 1907—Miss Macfee spoke of the missionary side of the work. Throughout its history the great aim of the League had been to secure volunteers for missionary work. Every

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