

POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

An open meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held at Chelsea Infirmary on Saturday, May 25th.

Miss Barton was in the chair. There was a good attendance of members, also some friends interested in the Association, who had come especially to hear a paper read by Dr. Thackray Parsons, Commanding Officer of the Fulham War Hospital, on the proposed changes which may be brought about through the Ministry of Health.

The visitors included Miss Gibson (late Matron of Birmingham Infirmary), Miss Redl, Miss Leigh, &c., and Dr. Rennington Hobbs, Medical Superintendent of Kensington Infirmary, and the Rev. A. Lombardini, Chaplain of Kensington Infirmary.

Miss Barton, in introducing Dr. Parsons to the members and friends present, remarked how glad the Association was to have the Medical Superintendents with them, not only at the meeting, but also interested in their work, and acknowledged with gratitude the helpful advice which at different times had been given them by the Medical Superintendents' Society.

Dr. Parsons then read a paper in which he summarised the recommendations of the Local Government Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction and the scheme of the British Medical Association for the constitution of a Ministry of Health. He pointed out that the adoption of either of these proposals would lead to great changes in the Poor Law Infirmaries. The administration of all Poor Law institutions in large areas by one authority would probably lead to specialisation, some being used for acute cases, others for chronic cases, and others for special diseases. If this change came about it would be necessary to attach to each Infirmary for acute cases an Infirmary for chronic cases, under the same medical and nursing administration, so that a nurse could receive her general training in one school, and thus the difficulty of finding nurses for the chronic cases might be avoided.

The infirmaries for special diseases ought to be used as post-graduate schools only, and no infirmary should be recognised as a general training school unless it could give a complete training.

Dr. Parsons thought there would be a great increase in the domiciliary nursing of persons entitled to medical treatment under public schemes. He hoped this nursing would be organised from the local infirmary and would form part of the training of probationers.

After the paper was read a very interesting discussion took place in which Miss Gibson, Dr. Hobbs, Mr. Lombardini and others took part.

All seemed unanimous that the proposed changes would not only benefit the sick under their care, many of whom had an antipathy to the idea of being sent to a workhouse infirmary, but would also improve the status of nurses trained in Poor Law infirmaries.

They welcomed the suggestion of a visiting staff, and were very interested in the suggestion that the nurses should be in touch with the sick poor, not only in the wards, but also in their own homes.

It was decided to forward the following resolution, which had been circulated among the members to Dr. Addison, M.P. :—

"That the members of the P.L.I.M.A. wish to express their sympathy with the objects of the Local Government Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, as put forward in their report. The members of the Association feel that they have had exceptional opportunities of judging of the urgent need there is for such a measure both from the point of view of the sick poor, and also in the interests of the training of Poor Law Nurses, and would therefore respectfully urge that representation may be given to their Association on any advisory body which may be formed to consider this subject."

After a hearty vote of thanks had been passed to Dr. Parsons, a war tea was provided.

All agreed that the meeting had been most interesting and instructive.

A type-written copy of Dr. Parson's paper will be sent to each member of the Association.

LEAGUE NEWS.

BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League was held at the Infirmary on Saturday afternoon, May 25th. After the business meeting, the members of the League, with nurses working in the neighbourhood, numbering about 100, assembled in the Out-patients Hall to discuss the organisation of the Nursing Profession. The College of Nursing and the National Union of Trained Nurses had sent representatives to address the meeting.

The President, Miss J. W. Davies, Matron of the Bradford Royal Infirmary, in her opening remarks gave a short account of the League, which is still in its infancy, having only been started last year, but has already a membership of 120. Since its inception it had always been intended to arrange gatherings to discuss subjects of interest to nurses, but owing to war conditions this was the first time the League had been able to do this, and it was felt that it would be of general interest if nurses could hear the objects of the two Bills drafted for State Registration and thus be enabled to compare them for themselves. The President hoped that after hearing Miss Rimmer for the National Union of Trained Nurses, and Miss Cowlin for the College of Nursing, that friendly discussion would be taken part in by those present and asked Miss Rimmer to address the meeting.

Miss Rimmer, Hon. Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, gave a short account of

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