

The Swimming Club has been most enthusiastic, and Sister Florence, the Sisters' representative, is to be congratulated upon her efforts to arouse interest in this Section. Test matches were held fortnightly, and a very successful Gala was held in the Swimming Bath on October 6th.

The Musical Society has also had practices during the year, and gave a very successful concert on February 8th, and, after all expenses were paid, we are glad to say there is a small balance in hand.

The Needlework Exhibition is a great improvement on that of last year, and Mrs. Burgwin, who has again kindly acted as Judge, praised the work highly, and found great difficulty in awarding the prizes.

The Photographic Exhibition has not received as much support as usual from past members; the reason given by many former exhibitors is the high cost of materials.

The new extension of the Nurses' Cottage at Honor Oak Park was formally opened by Lord Revelstoke and Mr. Cosmo Bonsor on June 23rd.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

In the absence of Mrs. Hughes, the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hogg then presented the financial statement. The income for the year amounted to £650 12s. 10d. and the expenditure to £839 10s. 10d. The cost of printing the new Nursing Guide and Register of Nurses had proved to be a very heavy one. Fortunately a balance of over £260 had been carried over from the previous year, and donations amounting to over £55 had been received from members in response to an appeal towards the printing, which, with the sums received for advertisements had left the League with a balance in hand of £75. This would be needed towards paying the cost of putting the hard Tennis Court into good playing condition, the estimated cost being about £100.

RESULT OF BALLOT FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Miss Hogg then invited Dame Sarah Swift, G.B.E., R.R.C., to take the chair; and Dame Sarah, after expressing her pleasure at so doing called on Miss Smith to announce the result of the Ballot for members of Council for the ensuing year, as follows:—

Tennis.—Sister Grace (Miss Mannell), Nurse Stubbs (re-elected).

Choral.—Sister Dixon (re-elected), Nurse Cornwall (re-elected).

Debating.—Sister Naaman (Miss Dearman), Nurse Watkins.

Needlework.—Sister Luke (Miss Wilson) (re-elected), Nurse Dreyer.

Swimming.—Sister Mildred (Miss Hughes), Nurse Pickard.

Library.—Sister May (Miss Westbrook), Nurse Peacock (re-elected).

Garden.—Sister Emily (Miss MacManus) (re-elected), Nurse Bailey (re-elected).

Photographic Society.—Sister Light (Miss Britton), Nurse W. Johnson (re-elected).

Dramatic Society.—Sister Agnes (Miss Verinder), Nurse Mundy (re-elected).

The election of three Hon. Members of the Council, Lady Lane, the Hon. Mrs. Molyneux and Mrs. Rowlands, was confirmed by the meeting.

THE NURSING PROFESSION OF TO-DAY.

The Chairman then called on Miss F. A. Sheldon, Lady Superintendent of the Trained Nurses' Institute, to present a paper on the Nursing Profession of To-day.

Miss Sheldon briefly summarised the present position for the general information of the Nursing Profession to-day, and said, in regard to State Registration, that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses had worked for many years to secure the passing of a Nurses' Registration Act, but, before the war, the need for this was not felt by the large Training Schools. Everyone was delighted when the Minister of Health, in the Autumn of 1919, introduced a Nurses' Registration Act for England and Wales into the House of Commons, and this with similar Acts for Scotland and Ireland became law in the autumn of that year.

Under these Acts General Nursing Councils were set up in the three Kingdoms. These Councils, however, had no legal power.

(This is a misapprehension. Definite powers are conferred by Statute upon these Councils. We advise our readers, if they have not already done so, to obtain a copy of the Nurses' Registration Act for England and Wales, procurable from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, or through any bookseller, price 2d.)

Miss Sheldon said, further, that the making and maintenance of a Register was no easy matter, and the Council had been working very hard framing the Rules for the Admission of Existing Nurses, and of Intermediate and Future Nurses to the Register, as well as those relating to the establishment of an Examination and a Uniform Curriculum.

The Conference convened by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and held on the previous day, to consider the Draft Syllabus of Lectures and Demonstrations, and Training in General Nursing, which it had drawn up, had been deeply interesting.

The Council was authorised to consider a uniform and badge for Registered Nurses, and Nurses were invited to communicate their views as to a suitable uniform to the Registrar of the Council, and to submit designs for a badge.

To the Irish Council belonged the honour of being first in the field to invite applications for Registration, but it was to be hoped that the others would be in a position to do so shortly. She hastened to add that no examination would be obligatory until 1924.

Some nurses feared the requirements of the Councils, but the Nursing World had adapted itself to the requirements of the Midwives Acts, and would doubtless do the same in regard to the Nursing Acts.

Nurses must, however, realise that Registration

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