

LEAGUE NEWS.

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

There was a very large and enthusiastic attendance at the weekly meeting of the Debating Society of the London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League, held on Tuesday, August 2nd, in the Board Room. At the close of the evening after a most interesting discussion on "Missionary Work," a presentation was made by the Nurses' League to Miss Donaldson, who is leaving shortly to take up the Matronship of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Nurse Grace Pearce handed an exquisite travelling clock with an illuminated face in a chased silver case to Miss Donaldson, and expressed on behalf of the nurses the deep regret felt at the loss of a matron whom they all not only respected but loved, and whose removal from their Training School made them very sad. Miss Donaldson, in replying, said she owed them a deep debt for their unflinching loyalty and eager enthusiastic response to their training, and she knew that they would rally round their new Matron, and carry on the work of the League and maintain their interest in the real good of the profession, on which they were entering. She hoped to visit the League whenever she came to London, and to hear that it was flourishing in every sense of the word.

E. M. MOORE,
Hon. Secretary.

DISTRICT NURSING OF INSURED PERSONS.

Considerable discussion is taking place as to the nursing of Insured persons in their own homes and as to contributions to Nursing Associations by Approved Societies.

Both of these voluntary organisations may receive contributions from these Societies, either under their statutory powers under paragraph 20 of the Act of 1911 or by way of additional benefits out of their surplus funds.

The Central Council for District Nursing in London—of which Sir William Collins is Chairman and Mr. E. B. Turner, Chairman of the Executive Committee—in April last informed those Approved Societies which have members resident in London that the Council was in a position to arrange for adequate nursing for all such members and invited the Societies to make contributions in aid of such work.

The Ministry of Health in a circular issued to Approved Societies contemplates sanctioning Schemes for bringing into operation additional benefits, and is prepared to furnish Societies with model draft Schemes. Among the additional benefits suggested by the Ministry is that of the provision of nursing service for members of the Societies, for which purpose a separate fund may be set aside.

Lord Cave's Committee's report on the voluntary

hospitals while recognising the complete freedom of discretion of the Approved Societies in granting financial aid in respect of insured persons to the voluntary hospitals, appears in the case of the latter, to favour a contribution or donation in recognition of such services to their members rather than any scheme of insurance by payment in advance (with its contractual implication) or compulsory payment afterwards in respect of service rendered.

Here again the case of the District Nursing Associations is on all fours with that of the voluntary hospitals in relation to insured persons or Approved Societies, and any scheme of financial aid to the one may be applied to the case of the other.

APPOINTMENT OF HOSPITAL TRAINED NURSES AT MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee have reported to the London County Council that considerable difficulty is found at the mental hospitals in securing from the existing subordinate nursing staff suitable candidates to fill vacancies for day and night charge nurses and they have considered whether it may be possible to attract to the service nurses who have received hospital training. They think that this might be attained by allowing a nurse, who is hospital-trained, to join the mental hospital service as an acting staff nurse at the rate of pay which a staff nurse would receive on appointment as such after three years' service as a probationer. If, during the two years following engagement, which is the period of service fixed by the Medico-Psychological Association as necessary for qualification for the nursing certificate, the nurse should show the required ability, the medical superintendent concerned might recommend her in special cases for promotion to the position of acting charge nurse. Many are of opinion that this course might be adopted with advantage to the service, and have communicated their proposal to the Finance Committee. The Committee recommend that authority be given for the engagement at the London County mental hospitals of certificated hospital-trained nurses as acting staff nurses at the rate of pay which a staff nurse would receive on appointment as such after three years' service as a probationer nurse.

A MAGICAL CHANGE.

Mrs. A. M. Dike, Commissioner of the American Committee for Devastated France, writes in her report to its Annual Meeting that "owing to an inherent quality in the French race the results obtained in material reconstruction have far surpassed expectations. By the aid of a small percentage of war indemnities, and the encouragement given by the Committee, the farmer and peasant have won immortal glory by the magical change they have wrought on the battlefields.

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