

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

On Tuesday, June 28th, the formal inauguration of a London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League took place at the Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1. The Out-Patient Hall of the Hospital was transformed into a bower of flowers; at 6.30 p.m. the Matron, Sisters and Nurses received the guests who had come to show their interest and sympathy with the League, amongst whom were Major Rigg, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. (Chairman of the Board of Management), Dr. Porter J. Parkinson (Senior Physician), Mr. Herbert Paterson (Senior Surgeon), Lady Strong (Board of Management), Mrs. Rigg, Mrs. Parkinson, Mrs. Paterson, Dr. and Mrs. Sanguinetti, Rev. and Mrs. Sheppard, Rev. V. and Mrs. Hobart, Mr. W. W. Parkinson (Vice-Chairman of the Board) Miss Macdonald, Secretary R.B.N.A., Mrs. Rhodes, Secretary W.T.A.U., Miss Silk, Assistant Secretary London Temperance Hospital, and many others. During the reception delicious refreshments were dispensed by the trim maids who looked most businesslike in their dainty grey uniform, and some music was given by friends of the Matron.

A small platform had been erected at one end of the Hall, and at 7 p.m. the Matron took the chair, supported by Major Rigg, Mr. Herbert Paterson, Dr. Parkinson, Miss Macdonald, Mrs. Rhodes, and Nurses Taylor, Bannister and E. Moore, Secretary of L.T.H.N.L. Miss Donaldson explained that the League was formed entirely on the initiative, enthusiasm and hard work of the Nurses themselves. Until the fact was communicated to her that she had been elected President, she was in ignorance that such a step as the formation of any such association of Nurses was contemplated. That fact spoke for itself. The object of the League was to foster that public spirit among the L.T.H. Nurses which was so greatly needed in the world to-day and to bind them together to hand on untarnished to their successors the noble traditions which have been won for them by the self-sacrifice and enthusiastic devotion of a small band of pioneers. The League was also intended to counteract the tendency to narrowness in outlook and interest which resulted from the routine and absorbing character of hospital training. The League already boasted a Sports' Club, which was a very important branch of the association, for as has been well said: "Nurses may never become great sportswomen, yet at any rate they can learn to win modestly (a great gain to character) as well as to lose well." As Nurses we do need to take part in other things than "Shop," and in this way our sports' section may help us to advance the line by at least maintaining a sporting spirit.

At the same time the Matron hoped the L.T.H. League would keep before it the real aim of a true Nurse's life, and stand for all that is best and highest in our glorious profession. There was need to-day to emphasize above everything that

nursing was a vocation. She then called upon Nurse Ethel Moore, the first Secretary of the League, to read the report, and in doing so said: "It is largely to the energy, earnestness and influence of Nurse Ethel Moore that we owe the existence of our League to-day."

The Secretary in her Report stated that for some months a small body of Nurses had been meeting together week by week for discussion on a wide variety of subjects, and from that small beginning she now had to report:—

(1) A flourishing and very enthusiastic Debating Society with a large membership, with the Matron as Chairman and Nurse Moore as Secretary; papers are read, and rumour has it that at the next session it will be unanimously decided that Matrons are obsolete.

(2) A Sports Club, which has arranged for the renting of a Tennis Court, in Mornington Crescent, and which has a section for boating in Regent's Park; during last winter a Dancing Class was held once a week for some months, and rumour has it that certain dignified members of the Medical Staff attended "incognito" and were initiated into the mysteries of the Fox-trot, &c. It is hoped to develop this Section, seeing we have some good gardeners, and arrange for a small Sub-Committee to be responsible for the care of all plants and window boxes and the prolongation by treatment of the many beautiful plants and shrubs, &c., which we receive as gifts from time to time.

(3) The Nurses' Missionary League Section of the L.T.H. has for long been an active work of the League, and as Sister Mary Edwards has undertaken this section, ably supported by some Nurses who hope, if their training prove successful, to give themselves to Mission work, it is hoped that during the autumn and winter this work may be further developed. Last autumn a very successful Sale of Work was held in the Nurses' Home, and a sum of £30 was sent to maintain a hospital bed in a Mission station in Persia.

(4) The Guild of St. Barnabas Section has been given into the care of Nurse Annie Carlyle, and as this Guild admits to its membership those who wish to be banded together to uphold and keep ever before them the Divine side of our profession, it is hoped that this Section will prove a real help to young Nurses leaving home for the first time.

(5) The W.T.A.U. Section has been undertaken by Nurse Joy Bannister, herself an enthusiastic member of the W.T.A.U., and no Nurses will leave the L.T.H. without having heard all about its claims.

(6) The Hospitality Section, a very important one in these days, is under the care of Sister Kettle, who has already proved herself most able in this direction.

(7) The Study Circle, which was started by Mrs. Pearson, the much-beloved friend of the Nurses and a member of the L.T.H. Ladies' Association, is left in her wise and sympathetic hands, and we hope for a large and enthusiastic membership.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)