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## EDITORIAL.

### NURSES' LEAGUES.

We have devoted much space in this issue, and wish we could have given more, to the very important report of the Reunion of Past and Present Nurses of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary—under the Presidency of Mrs. Strong, the doyenne of trained nurses in the United Kingdom—at which the first League of Nurses connected with a Training School in Scotland was founded; and also to the report of the influential meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, London, the premier League in this country, founded by the late Miss Isla Stewart, of honoured memory, after she had studied the organisation of similar Associations in the United States of America. These two gatherings are typical of the two sides of the activities of Nurses' Leagues.

The Reunion of Glasgow Nurses is an example of the social side of a Nurses' League. Not only did past and present nurses of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary meet together in most enjoyable social intercourse, but they had as their guests the Chairman of the Infirmary and other members of its Board of Governors, and distinguished members of the medical profession. There, and then, the Nurses' League of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary was founded, an event of considerable importance in the history of Scottish Nurses, and it is notable that that splendid pioneer of nursing in Scotland, Mrs. Strong, presided over the inauguration of this new movement.

The meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses demonstrated the importance of the business side of a League. At the business meetings League members can bring much influence to bear upon current events. Had the united Leagues taken con-

certed and forceful action in opposing the application of the National Insurance Act, and the Unemployment Act, to members of the Nursing Profession, there is little doubt that they would not have been included, and some form of insurance more applicable to their needs would have been adopted.

The prompt action taken by the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League on Saturday last for the protection of their greatly valued Certificate is an instance of the uses of a Nurses' League for professional purposes. As will be seen in another column, the League unanimously passed a Resolution emphasising the professional and economic damage which would result to certificated nurses if their Certificates were not recorded on the State Register of Nurses.

The immediate popularity of Nurses' Leagues whenever founded is due, no doubt, to the pleasure felt by nurses at revisiting their Training School as an integral part of it, and there again meeting former colleagues and friends. That is an important side of their work, but their opportunities of usefulness are much wider and more far reaching. If, as in every instance they should be, they are self-governing, with officers elected by the members, they afford opportunities of education in the conduct of business, and for the expression of professional opinions of the first importance, and they are further the recognized channels through which the nurses of the world are united in the International Council of Nurses, by an organization at once simple and effective.

Only those who have attended gatherings of this great Council can realize the inspiration and the pleasure which its meetings afford, and more, the joy of seeing foreign countries and getting into touch, under specially favourable conditions, with our colleagues of other nations.

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