

LEAGUE NEWS.

No League issues a more admirable Annual Journal than the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League. Its pastel blue cover with white lettering is charming, and the paper and printing first-class. This no doubt is greatly appreciated by the members, as a nurse's motto should be "everything worth doing is worth doing well."

The Journal 1921 opens with a letter from the President, Miss C. E. Vincent, R.R.C., followed by one from the Hon. President, Miss G. A. Rogers—and both ladies take the opportunity of advising the members of the Leicester Infirmary League—consistently in the forefront for many years in the demand for State Registration—to register with the General Nursing Council.

Miss Vincent writes: "In the Nursing World, the General Nursing Council has been hard at work—the State Register is open. I need hardly say that it is the duty of each one of us to register without delay—if only for the sake of example and the good of the Nursing Profession generally. Some of us who are no longer young may feel that we have nothing to gain by joining the State Register; others I know are feeling and asking: 'What am I going to gain by being placed on a register which admits nurses who have only one year's hospital training followed by two years' practice as a nurse.' To all I would say that these conditions of admission to the State Register will exist only during the 'Period of Grace,' *i.e.*, till July, 1924*, after which every nurse desiring to join the State Register will be able to do so only by taking and passing the State Examination. Further, Parliament never legislates backwards; and no Registration Act would ever have been accepted by Parliament had it entailed throwing out of employment existing nurses.

"This item, therefore, is a comparatively small one, and will shortly right itself, and meanwhile for the uplift of the Profession generally it behoves us to sink our personal feelings (if we have any) and to join up as Registered Nurses. This, I hope, every member of the Nurses' League will do."

Miss Rogers asks: "How many of you have registered? If you have not already done so, I hope you will without delay. The League has always stood for, and fought for, State Registration. Be true, then, to the traditions of the League."

This is sound advice. As nurses have been enjoying a three years' training or school examination for so many years, it will be comparatively very few nurses who will register on the one year's training—and then, only women who have been working hard for many years in the less remunerative branches of nursing, many helping the poor to the best of their ability, and who can bring references of continued good character—and if the certificated nurses support the demand that their certificates shall be recorded in the published

* The period of grace terminates in November, 1923, two years from the date on which the Rules came into operation with the consent of Parliament.—ED.

Register, the public and the medical profession will see at a glance the professional status of every registered nurse. The Leicester League has done its duty in addressing the General Nursing Council on this important matter.

The Reports of the business and social gatherings of the League prove its stability and harmony.

PRIZE-GIVING.

The Prize-Giving took place on October 14th in the Recreation Room of the Nurses' Home, and Mrs. Fielding Johnson, the wife of the Infirmary Chairman, distributed them with kindly and encouraging words.

The Gold Medal was won by Nurse D. L. Barker, the Silver Medal by Nurse H. G. Blakesley, and the Bronze Medal by Nurse E. E. Pidcock; and the Senior Book Prize, the Second Year Prize, and the First Year Prize by Nurses E. M. Tarratt, E. A. Tatton, and H. Corhan respectively.

Miss Vincent reported the training and appointment of a Sister-Tutor, so that Leicester could feel it was well to the front in its teaching, and they would not have much difficulty in reaching the standard of the State Examination Syllabus, as they were already largely teaching on this syllabus, and hoped shortly to adopt it throughout. Miss Vincent then spoke on the Practical work in the Wards, Theatre, Out-Patients, X-Rays, &c.

"Here," she said, "the Hospital Sisters come in, and I would like to say to them direct that there is nothing which can take the place of the individual care and teaching which every probationer and nurse in training receives daily from the Ward Sisters; their responsibility is very great. It is the Sister who trains the nurse in her dealings with her patients, and true nursing can never afford to develop into theoretical work alone. The two must go hand in hand . . . I have no hesitation in saying that they (the Sisters) are the backbone of the Hospital, without them there could be no efficient training of the nurse; and I am proud to think that here my Sisters are what they are, for I know that the success of our work is due in no small degree to their loyalty and devotion."

The Report of Miss F. J. Redl, Matron of the Brompton Hospital, the outside Examiner in Practical Nursing Work, was read, in which she stated:—

"The nurses set about their work in a thoroughly businesslike and efficient manner, evincing both thought and consideration for their patients in the answers to the questions and tests put to them, thus giving proof of the care and thoroughness of the practical instruction given throughout the training. This is shown by the results, all candidates having passed, and three obtaining honours."

The extracts from the members' letters are instructive and interesting.

We congratulate the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League on its harmonious progress throughout the year, not only its journal but its methods are an example to other Leagues, and we should imagine from the *esprit de corps* evinced there should be no shortage of candidates for training at this splendid hospital.

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