

members of the G.R.I. Nurses' League are daily increasing—the membership to-day stands at 272. Mr. Craig went on to speak of the Nursing Profession, and he urged those present to try in every way to further the alliance of Leagues, and so arrive at a proper standard for the profession. Greater things would be expected of the Nursing Profession as the science of medicine and surgery progressed. He concluded by saying that those who devoted their time to the cause of alleviating suffering humanity should feel that their mission in life had been fulfilled and that they had earned a just reward.

MISS DONALDSON, responding to the Toast of the G.R.I. Nurses' League, of which she is President, made an earnest appeal to all former members of the Nursing Staff to join the League. She alluded to Mr. Craig's description of the origin of Leagues, and asked everyone to ponder over what he had said. Alas! she said, among such associations there were some both dangerous and disruptive, but such a League of past and present nurses not only preserves the memory of the past, but fosters happy relations with the future, binding past and present. It also keeps individuals in touch with one another, thereby strengthening friendship. We are all part of a whole, and other lives are bound up in ours. We want to lose sight of self and the thought that perhaps at the moment the League is not going to mean very much to individuals. Miss Donaldson went on to say that it was with great satisfaction she noted that past nurses of the G.R.I. all over the world were members of the League, and she took the opportunity of saying that there were members present who had come from Liverpool and from London. She thought that through the Journal the members in distant lands could feel that they were connected as if with a "live wire" to the work of the G.R.I. to-day. She made a final appeal to the nurses to join the League, and so link up the past with the present.

The Medical Staff.

SISTER RODRIGUEZ, in proposing the Toast of the Medical Staff, said: I have been given the honour to propose a Toast to the Medical Staff of the Royal Infirmary. When we think of the medical staff, I am sure we one and all think of our Chiefs, some of us also think of the Residents; but the thoughts of our Chiefs come first. They are varied thoughts, thoughts of hard work and of praise, thoughts of kindness and of patience, thoughts of scoldings and of silent laughter. We all, she continued, remember the deadly feuds amongst us as regards the merits of our respective Chiefs. No physician or surgeon could be so splendid as ours, and there are very few people who fully realise as we do the extent of their great work. There is no branch of the Medical Profession which gives the best advice and skill so willingly and so untiringly as the Medical Staff of the Royal Infirmary, and we nurses are proud of the names of the Staff which have made our Training School famous.

MR. J. H. PRINGLE said that on behalf of the Medical Staff of the Royal Infirmary he had to ex-

press their thanks for the very real sentiments spoken by Sister Rodriguez. On his own behalf, he was much surprised to be greeted with such applause on rising, as he had no idea he was such a favourite. (Laughter.) The Medical Staff, he continued, could not get on without the loyal help of the Nursing Staff. After all, the medical side of the house started the work, but the conclusion and the successful conclusion of the work was entirely due to the efforts of the Nursing Staff. He knew he was speaking for all the Medical Staff when he said that they all felt that they were greatly indebted to the wonderful support they had from the Nurses.

The Past Nurses.

The Toast of the "Past Nurses" was then proposed by DR. JAMES ADAMS, who wished in his speech to impress upon those nurses already trained in the Royal Infirmary that they had had more advantages than any other nurses, he considered, in the United Kingdom. The Royal Infirmary had been the birthplace of the proper training of nurses. Mrs. Strong, the Chairman to-night, had proved a worthy disciple of Florence Nightingale, he spoke as one with authority, as he had come into personal contact with Mrs. Strong and her work. He touched on her high ideal of character and high ideals of duty, and her thorough teaching of the nurses, which all combined to have a lasting effect on the nurses trained under her.

MISS HENDERSON replied that it was a sure proof of the affection with which the Royal Infirmary was regarded, and the keen interest taken in it by the Past Nurses, that so many were present at the reunion, and some from very long distances. The Past Nurses could never forget the Royal Infirmary, as they owed so much to the training received there and the happy friendships which were made inside its walls, and the privileges that were theirs in the Nurses' Home, due to the fine administration of Mrs. Strong and later of Miss Melrose. Many of the times in the wards were full of hardships and self-sacrifices, but these were all forgotten when the happy "homey" atmosphere of the Nurses' Home was reached. Probably friendships made in the probation days were the most lasting, and the girls who entered together seemed always to remain chums. Of course the old days to the Past Nurses will ever seem the best days, and when it is said that the probationers of to-day are having a better time, the Past Nurses simply don't believe it! Summing up, Miss Henderson said that she believed that the Royal Infirmary would maintain its ancient glory, and remain the premier institution, second to none in the United Kingdom, because, to quote the costermonger's description of his wares, the Royal Nurses "are the pick of the market and every one a good 'un."

This Toast was received with great enthusiasm.

The Present Nurses.

PROFESSOR HUNTER, in proposing the Toast of "The Present Nurses" of the Royal Infirmary, spoke of his acquaintance with the Nurses extending back to 1891, and almost continuously to the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)