

of his own, made to use them while he is here, and urged to take them home when he is discharged. So many patients arrive with badly kept teeth—often an important factor in their illness—that we cannot over-emphasise the care of the mouth. We believe that this distribution of toothbrushes is a valuable and far-reaching piece of propaganda.

“Each person has also his individual soap-dish and soap, and comb. These, with the toothbrush, are kept in a white enamelled metal tray designed to hang inside the bedside table. The arrangement is much more sanitary and convenient than formerly. The ‘nurses’ baskets’ are still used, but are made smaller, since they need not contain so many articles.

“Serving meals on the public wards has been simplified. Each ward has a sort of tea-wagon, substantial, smoothly running. Just before meal time the kitchen sends up a ‘vacuum box,’ resembling a fireless cooker, containing tightly covered receptacles with the food piping hot. This box is set on the wagon, with the dishes and silver. Wooden standing trays have previously been taken into the ward for those patients who need them. The nurses push their carts down the ward, serving from the vacuum box as they go, following the diet list which hangs on the back of the cart. A ward can be served in 10 or 15 minutes with scarcely an extra trip, and the food keeps hot.

“The nurses are allowed more privileges generally than a few years ago. Pupil nurses may now use the elevators. They may go out with doctors and students or entertain them at the Nurses’ Home. They may have many more dances. The unmarked laundry, kept in the office, may be claimed at any time.

“It is such small things as these, which creep in almost unobserved, that eventually contribute definitely to the comfort of the patient and the convenience of the nurses.”

The National League of Nursing Education, U.S.A., of which we are happy to be an honorary member, is going ahead, and, with other National Nursing Organisations, now has its headquarters in New York City, each represented there by its own Executive Secretary. With this progressive step, it is hoped that the work of the League will be greatly stimulated and that it will be able to render the greatest possible service to its members, to institutions and organisations in need of the services of nurses, and to all those interested in the problems of nursing education.

NURSES’ MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Annual Meetings of the Nurses’ Missionary League, held on May 3rd, were a very special occasion, being the twentieth anniversary of its foundation. The morning session illustrated the growth of the work. Mrs. Basden (Mildmay Mission Hospital and Nigeria) and Mrs. Arnold Hughes (Manchester Royal Infirmary and Hong Kong) spoke about the League in 1903 and 1913—the years in which they respectively became members. Mrs. Basden contrasted the tiny beginnings with the present, as illustrated by the long list of Matrons who have become Vice-Presidents, and by the fact that members are now working overseas in connection with thirty-six Missionary Societies. Mrs. Hughes spoke of some of the ways in which the League had helped, by the little meetings in hospital and afterwards by its literature, by the link of intercession, and by the fellowship with other members, especially when they meet in distant parts of the earth. A “Demonstration Study Circle” was then held by nurses representing three hospitals, and this was followed by reports of the work during the past year, from branches in Scotland, the Provinces, and London. These reports showed the great variety of the present work—the activities including the performance of a missionary play, weekly walks in summer, needlework guilds, circles for the study of the Bible, and of missionary problems and meetings for intercession.

At the afternoon conversazione there were, as usual, members present from many parts of the world—India, China, South America, and various places in Africa—and little groups gathered around to listen and to compare experiences. The beautiful songs were much enjoyed, and two interesting addresses were given by Miss Darbyshire on the work of the Minto Nursing Association in India, and by Dr. Cochrane about his experiences during some twenty years’ service in China.

In the evening, after the adoption of the Report, a message was passed to be sent to Mrs. Starr, who had been a member since 1908, and had been closely connected with the League. Miss Maud Lamb then spoke of her work as Sister in a Women’s Hospital in Amritsar, emphasising the terrible sufferings of the Indian women under the *furdah* system, which forbids them to see a man doctor. She explained that the chief work of the English Sister is necessarily to train Indian nurses, and she spoke in highest terms of the skill and reliability of some of the Indians when fully trained. Some of her nurses, under an Indian woman doctor, had carried on the hospital unaided, when the English staff had to leave during the riots four years ago.

The day closed with an address on “The Care of the Inner Life,” by the Rev. C. C. B. Bardsley, D.D.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)