

But this air of refinement pervaded the whole place, and in every ward, whether the patients were in bed or out of it, whether male or female, they had that same groomed look, that happy air which comes from kind nursing and refined surroundings and influences; and oh! no unpleasant smells of the unbathed patient. *Nous sommes si bien soignés* was the usual remark when I spoke to the patients. Mademoiselle De Meyer kindly consented to my addressing the nurses one evening. My throat had a lump in it when I saw those fifty young nurses and Sisters dressed in English uniforms in blue, their white aprons and their soft falling caps like veils surrounding their sweet girlish faces in soft folds, for many of them were only 17-18 years of age! I told them all about my experiences with the nursing movement in France, in Syria, in England; I told them all about the Conferences we had had in Paris and London, &c., and also of our long battle for State Registration in England; so that in England, too, there had been difficulties before the nursing profession had reached the stage of being copied by other nations.

My second visit then ended by my being taken into the Matron's own sanctum which bore out the *cachet* of artistic refinement throughout the whole building. The two assistants joined us at a cup of delicious tea. Our conversation was animated and keen—all three ladies seemed to have no other thought but their profession. I told them that I thought that they ought not to try and copy other countries too closely, but rather to try and evolve a Belgian nurse with her own national characteristics and needs.

The supporters of the Edith Cavell-Marie Depage Belgian training school have placed high standards of character and of systematic professional efficiency. Their certified pupils are doing splendid work in other hospitals and other schools.

The Belgian nursing movement has naturally its critics, but it has the support of Queen Elisabeth, of the Government and of the leaders of the medical profession.

Before leaving the hospital at about 11 p.m., the four of us went out and looked at the monument outside the door erected in memory of the two martyrs of the cause, Edith Cavell and Marie Depage, and I now wear with pride the medal struck with their two profiles given me by the capable and honoured Matron.

EDLA R. WORTABET.



MARIE DEPAGE - EDITH CAVELL MEDAL.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

The gatherings held on May 8th in University Hall marked an epoch in the history of the Nurses' Missionary League, being its twenty-first birthday. Throughout the day there was a note of rejoicing for the progress and growth of those years. In the morning there was a special backward look, for the Chairman, Miss M. C. Outram, had been hostess at the first public gathering of the League in 1903, and was able to tell of the struggles and hopes of the early days. In her address she spoke on "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day and for ever," and expressed the assurance that God, Who had so wonderfully blessed the League, will continue to bless it in the future. After a Bible Study Circle, composed of members from various

hospitals, messages were given by two "original members" of the League, Mrs. Browne and Miss Venables, and letters were read from Miss Blenkarn, Miss F. Herbert and others. These told of the beginnings of the branches at St. George's, King's College and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospitals, and voiced the good wishes of these early members for the future work.

At the afternoon *conversazione*, which as usual provided an opportunity for talks with members from distant lands and for listening to some beautiful music, two addresses were given. Mrs. Thornton, in her talk on "The Trust of Now," reviewed the progress of the League in the line of the number of members serving in the mission field (292 now as compared with 4 in 1903), of missionary study and Bible study. Miss E. M. Haward, of Wuchang, China, then gave a vivid account of conditions against which nurses were fighting in China, the dirt, ignorance, superstition, lack of regulations for prevention of infection, and closed by saying that she believed that the life of a missionary nurse was the very happiest possible life.

In the evening the chair was taken by Mrs. Sturge, and Miss Richardson announced that Twenty-first Anniversary Meetings of the League were being held in Manchester, Salisbury, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Liverpool and other centres. She then read messages of greeting from Miss Fairfield and Mr. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S. (first and present Chairman of the N.M.L. Committee), and from Miss Willcox, R.R.C. (King's College Hospital), Miss Sparshott, C.B.E., R.R.C. (Royal Infirmary, Manchester), and Miss Gill, R.R.C. (Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh).

Miss Hope Bell (Hankow, China), then gave a very vivid account of conditions in China, and pictured the tremendous sphere open to nurses of all kinds of experience, from the sheerest pioneering to the very up-to-date work of training the Chinese nurses, and pointed out that in China there are only 600 trained nurses of all nationalities, for a population of 400,000,000. She closed with a most earnest

appeal for more workers, asking all who heard the call to "put God first," and they would never regret it.

In the closing address the Rev. R. O. Hall spoke on "The Eternal Victory," emphasising the tremendous power of love which is working out the purpose of God in every land to-day, working through "ordinary, simple, shy men and women" like ourselves, who are willing to yield themselves to be channels of omnipotent love.

N.M.L. "CAMP."

The Annual "Camp" of the Nurses' Missionary League is to be held at Sandstead, Yorkshire, from June 14th to 28th. The "Camp" is not held under canvas, and is open to all members of the nursing profession. One Sister who spoke at the annual meeting described the beautiful scenery, walks, picnics, paddling, and said Camp was "a most lovely time." Any nurse who can get her holiday at these dates should apply for particulars to Miss J. Macfee, 21, Frogna Lane, London, N.W.3.

MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will be held in London in July. Due notice will be given to all the affiliated societies.

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