

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

We have received a very satisfactory report of our Australian Branch for the last six months.

Their forty-fifth half yearly meeting took place on October 24th, when Mrs. G. R. J. Glover presided. In the Report sympathetic reference is made to the death of Her Royal Highness, the late Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and there is appreciative comment on the interest which the Princess took in all matters relating to nursing and in the Association in particular.

The Private Staff connected with the Branch Association has had a very successful half year.

Dr. H. E. Russell has been appointed a Vice-Chairman. Satisfaction is expressed that Miss Graham, R.R.C., late Matron of the Adelaide Hospital, still keeps in touch with the Branch, which owes so much to her energy and interest in its work.

In a circular to the Australian Members, issued with the Report, they are reminded that the Association bought the property on which the Club now stands for the sum of £3,200. During the year, in order to clear off the greater part of a mortgage on this property, the Committee decided to sell a portion of the land, over and above that used for the Club building. The result of this sale was that the mortgage was reduced by the sum of £1,000, and the Committee are now asking the Australian Members to unite in subscribing the small amount still required to clear the mortgage, and thus render their property freehold. So far this appeal has had a very fair result.

## OBITUARY.

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Miss Hepzibah Walker. Miss Walker joined the Association in 1889. For many years she was Superintendent of a large Co-operation of Nurses in South Kensington.

## NURSES AND MISSIONARY SERVICE.

This year the Nurses' Missionary League will celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of its foundation in 1903, and we feel sure the members of the Association will be interested in its fine work. The intention of the founders was to bring before members of the nursing profession the great need for fully-trained nurses in mission hospitals in different parts of the world, which were rapidly developing in scope and influence. From very small beginnings the League has grown into a well-organised society with branches in many of the large hospitals of Great Britain and with members in every part of the world.

The primary object of the League was to recruit nurses for service overseas, but it was realised that all nursing is a truly missionary vocation when carried on in the place of God's choice; and the League has therefore sought to lead all nurses to dedicate their lives to the service of God, whether at home or abroad, and to help them in forming habits of prayer and Bible study. With these objects in view the membership is four-fold:—

1. VOLUNTEER MEMBERS.—Fully-trained nurses who purpose, if God permit, to become foreign missionaries.
2. HOME MEMBERS.—Fully-trained nurses who desire to work and pray either at home or abroad for the evangelisation of the world.
3. VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATES.—Nurses in course of general training who purpose, if God permit, to become foreign missionaries.
4. HOME ASSOCIATES.—Nurses in course of general training who desire to work and pray either at home or abroad for the evangelisation of the world.

A great part of the League's work is carried on in the hospital branches. These are usually run by the nurses themselves, often with the Matron as President of the branch, a Sister or nurse as Secretary, another nurse as

treasurer, and sometimes a committee, "recruiting sergeant," and other officers. The meetings are held in hospital and vary considerably in their undertakings. There is usually a study circle for the study of the Bible or of some missionary problem; and other activities include gatherings for intercession, missionary meetings addressed by some doctor or nurse on furlough, working parties, debates, &c. In addition to the above, a number of central gatherings are held, including the quiet days and half-yearly all-day gatherings in London, occasional "at homes" in other centres, such as Liverpool, and the Summer Camps, which are held each year. In all these gatherings nurses get unique opportunities for meeting members of the League from overseas, and for hearing about conditions of work in very varying lands.

Members are also kept in touch by means of literature, including the quarterly magazine *Nurses Near and Far*, monthly Bible study notes and leaflets, and various booklets descriptive of work overseas. "A Record of Twenty Years" (1d.) gives a concise history of the League and two recent publications, "A Nursing Sister in India" (2d.) and "World-Wide Opportunities for Members of the Nursing Profession" (4d.), give first-hand information about work in India and China from the pens of Sisters and doctors who have served abroad.

The number of recruits for service overseas grows steadily, and one of the most important functions of the League is that of putting these recruits into touch with the Missionary Societies, and helping them with advice as to special training, vacant posts, &c. The N.M.L. Secretary, Miss Richardson, 135, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1., is in close touch with the headquarters of the various Societies and represents the League on some of their Candidates' and Medical Committees. On the other hand, ten societies appoint representatives on the Committee of the League. The N.M.L. is strictly inter-denominational and seeks to help every Society which carries on medical work.

Of recent years some thirty volunteers have sailed annually for the mission field and the number now serving overseas reaches about three hundred. These members are doing very varied work. Some are Matrons of large up-to-date hospitals, such as those at Peking, Cairo, or Mengo (Uganda); others are serving in hospitals of every size, type and stage of development; others in dispensaries or in district work. The N.M.L. members have been to the fore in the splendid medical work which has done so much to break down opposition in Persia; in the wonderful work done for a few weeks every Spring at Shikarpur, North-West Frontier; in the fight against leprosy in China. Pre-eminently they have worked for the building-up of the nursing profession in other lands. Whether by training a few boys and girls in a small hospital in Africa, or by founding a training-school in India, they have always sought to gather around themselves a group of indigenous nurses. This has been particularly successful in China, where N.M.L. members have been largely used in advancing the work of the Nurses' Association of China, and have served the Association in various capacities, one member being its President and another its Secretary at the present time.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We remind our Members that, in accordance with Bye-law VIII, all Annual Membership Subscriptions fall due on January 1st. A very large proportion of these are still unpaid, and we will be grateful if Members will attend to the matter of their payment, as delay in this respect involves much increased expense for postage and a great deal of extra work for the office staff.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)