

I desire, however, to point out that the letter of my Committee (dated November 25th) appears to have been misunderstood. My Committee would not have ventured to suppose that the Minister would "enter into any discussion upon the decision given by him in his judicial capacity." They asked only, and with all possible respect, to be allowed to lay before him the considered opinion of women who are at the present time, or who have been, engaged in the actual work of training Probationers within the walls of the Training Schools.

Perhaps the Minister will be so good as to allow you to draw his attention to this fact.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. COX-DAVIES,
Hon. Secretary.

The Secretary to
The Minister of Health,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Winter Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was held in the Anatomical Theatre of the Hospital, on Saturday, December 10th, 1927. The chair was taken by the President (Miss Helen Dey, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital). The Hon. Secretary (Miss Helen Baines), read the minutes of the July meeting.

Correspondence included a letter from Mrs. Shuter, thanking the League for their sympathy in her husband's illness.

Also numerous letters from members who were unable to attend the meeting.

The President reported that Miss Joyce M. Watson was the first member of the League to gain the Diploma in Nursing of the London University, and she had also gained a distinction. It was agreed to send her congratulations from the League.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the President and seconded by Mrs. Hayward, to Mrs. Ross, who has retired from the office of Treasurer.

The office had been filled for the time being by Mrs. Hadfield, and the President said how greatly they were indebted to her, and proposed that she be elected Treasurer. This was seconded by Miss Bramwell and carried with acclamation.

Mrs. Hayward presented a Report on the Country Cottage Scheme, and said that the Committee had with great regret come to the conclusion that it would be beyond the means of the League to undertake such a scheme unless anyone should come forward with a substantial offer of help. Mrs. Turnbull said the League owed Mrs. Hayward a vote of thanks for all the trouble she had taken in connection with it.

Under "Other Business," the President said that Miss Birch had suggested that a memorial tablet should be placed in the Church of St. Bartholomew the Less with the names of all members of the League who had died.

As this was not possible, Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith had made the suggestion that there should be a Memorial Book of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League, with the names of all the members inscribed in it at their death. This scheme was discussed and met with approval, and it was decided that the name of the Founder of the League, Miss Isla Stewart, should be on the first page. The President reported that £15 had been given anonymously to help with the book, and that there were from 68 to 75 names already to be inscribed.

The members then adjourned to the Great Hall, which was gaily decorated for the occasion with holly and chrysanthemums, and where an inviting tea and gossip with old friends were enjoyed to the accompaniment of delightful music.

THE LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

There was a large gathering at the Autumn Meeting of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, held in the Nurses' Home of the Infirmary, on Thursday, November 10, at which Miss Vincent, President, presided. After the business of the meeting had been transacted, Miss Embry, Hon. Secretary, gave an account of the Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses held at Geneva in July, with the main points of the addresses given there.

Mrs. Fielding Johnson presented medals and prizes to successful members of the Training School. Mr. Pichard, Chairman of the Board of Governors, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fielding Johnson, said how much the Board appreciated the work of the sisters and nurses. Mr. Astley Clarke seconded the motion and remarked how interdependent all the members of the Hospital staff must be—the work of the stoker was as essential as the work of the surgeons and nurses, and the work of the Board in collecting funds was equally important.

Tea was provided in one of the sitting-rooms, and an American sale to provide funds for a new League banner was held in the other.

The Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' Journal invariably appears in the best form, delicate grey cover and paper and printing of the best. To those of us who love literature, the appearance of the *Journal* gives great satisfaction, and we turn with assurance to the matter therein. Miss C. E. Vincent, President of the League, reminds the members in her opening letter that "The standard of requirements has risen and this makes great demands on the life of the worker. One realises more and more that there is no room for the shallow or selfish where the Nursing of the Sick is concerned and that actual real personal work would always have to be done by people aflame with the Spirit of Service, for no Government or law could be a substitute for personal work."

The issue contains interesting quotes from an excellent Address prepared by Miss Embry—the Hon. Secretary who attended the Interim Nursing Conference at Geneva in July—and we read the following page of nursing history with pleasure. Well do we remember the fierce struggle between reaction and the attempt at nursing reform at Guy's in the Seventies. We young Sisters of the progressive school, then at the London Hospital, took the keenest interest in the clash of forces at Guy's and were of course in sympathy with Miss Burt in her courageous attack on abuses well known throughout the Nursing World in those days. Those were stirring times indeed. We are thankful we were called upon to "lend a hand." We also attended Miss Burt's wedding a few years later, when she had retired from the fray.

A PAGE OF NURSING HISTORY.

"An Old Guy's Sister writes:—

"It was, I think, in the Autumn of 1880 that I received an urgent call from Miss Margaret Burt, who had been recently appointed Matron of Guy's, to come to her assistance. I had been a lady pupil, as we were called in those far-off days, under her matronship at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Her need was great, or Miss Burt would not have summoned so youthful a member of her staff as myself—so far as I remember, she said: "Come yourself at once, and bring anyone who can carry a brain!" The cause of this urgency was that, when the old nursing staff at Guy's heard of the new Matron's rules, sixty of them marched to her office, and resigned in a body, and yet what would the nurse of to-day think when she heard that these rules were necessary? One was that Sisters and Nurses should not do their personal washing, I mean washing of clothes, in the wards; another, that outdoor uniform was to be worn; a third, that in future the Sisters' food should be provided by the hospital and not by themselves!

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