

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A visit to Claybury Mental Hospital.

A most enjoyable afternoon was spent by members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland on Saturday, June 1st, at Claybury Mental Hospital, with the Matron, Miss Helen Lamb, as hostess, assisted by various members of her staff.

It was much to be regretted that another important event in the nursing world, the unveiling of the Isla Stewart Memorial at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, past President of the Matrons' Council, was taking place the same afternoon, thereby depleting the number of members able to be present.

The spacious grounds of Claybury were looking their best with beautiful flowering shrubs and flowers in their Spring glory, and a background of leafy green trees set them off to perfection.

The first and most important event after arrival at 2.30 p.m., was an inspection of "Forrest House" a newly-opened annexe of 50 beds, which is the pride and joy of all who work at Claybury; with its beautifully-equipped wards, dining rooms, and recreation rooms carried out in a most pleasing scheme of brown and blue, and with every modern convenience for both Nursing Staff and patients. It filled the visitors with admiration, and a most interesting account of the work done there was given by the Sister in charge, over a cup of tea and home-made cakes, welcome refreshment after the journey down from London and elsewhere, especially as it was taken out on the lawn, from where one had a glorious view of the surrounding neighbourhood. At 4 p.m. the members adjourned to the main building for their business meeting, the path leading up to the same taking them through a rhododendron walk which was a mass of blooms..

The Business Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Amongst other correspondence letters were read from Miss Pell Smith, Miss Child and Miss Hurlston; many letters of regret for absence were received.

Miss Farrant and Miss Fowler kindly consented to act as our Representatives at the Conference of the National Council of Women, to be held at Manchester, and the Secretary was instructed to write to a member who lived in that district and ask her to also act.

A letter from the Association of Social and Moral Hygiene was read and considered.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the selections of Resolutions to be placed on the Preliminary Agenda of the N.C.W. and to instruct our representatives as to their voting on the same at Manchester. It was unanimously agreed that Miss Drakard be asked if she would kindly give a report on the International Congress of Nurses, to be held at Montreal in July, at the next meeting of the Council, to be held on November 2nd, 1929.

The meeting then terminated with a most hearty vote of thanks to Miss Lamb for her kind invitation and hospitality.

At 5 p.m., a most sumptuous tea was served in the Staff Nurse Sitting-room, where a photograph of Miss Florence Nightingale attracted much attention. The members then proceeded on a tour of the wards, workrooms, laundry, etc., escorted by the Matron and her assistants in various parties.

About 6 p.m. the members dispersed for 'bus or train, all feeling that a most pleasant and instructive afternoon had been spent.

Great thanks are due to Miss Lamb and the Medical

Superintendent, Dr. G. F. Barham, for providing such an attractive programme. KATHLEEN A. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

There was a large gathering of members at the Annual Meeting, held at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, on Thursday, June 13th. Miss Vincent, R.R.C. (President), took the chair, and was supported by Miss Rogers (Hon. President) and the Misses Pell Smith and Sherlock (Vice-Presidents).

The keynote of the meeting was regret at the impending departure of Miss Vincent, who retires from the Matronship of the Royal Infirmary in September. Miss Rogers voiced the feelings of the League and proposed a resolution, which was carried with acclamation: "The League thanks Miss Vincent for continuing to hold the Presidentship for the coming year, and accepts her resignation with great regret." Miss Pell Smith, in a humorous little speech, referred to Miss Vincent's unflinching courtesy. She herself had proved the fallacy of the idea that if you give up work you are dead in six months. She hoped that Miss Vincent would take a real rest for three or four months, then take up some other work, possibly politics!

Miss Downes (Matron of the General Hospital, King's Lynn) presented Miss Vincent with a cheque for £66 as a token of the affection and respect of the League members. Contributions had been sent even from Canada and by air mail from India, with expressions of gratitude and admiration for Miss Vincent's work and kindness to League members.

Miss Marriott then gave Miss Vincent a lovely sheaf of red and cream roses for Miss Rogers and herself. Miss Vincent, in thanking the members, said that she was very sorry to leave the Infirmary. The work had been hard, but she had enjoyed it; she should certainly come back, and hoped to be present at the next Annual Meeting.

After tea and ices in the nurses' sitting-room and a little time spent in visiting the new theatres, wards and kitchens, the members gathered in the chapel for a short service, when Bishop Lang dedicated the beautiful League banner and gave a short address. He admired the workmanship of the banner and referred to the motto embodying the ideals of the League—firstly, loyalty to the Nursing Profession; and, secondly, corporate loyalty to their own League and Hospital, with the upholding of its traditions. He commended the annual gathering together of the members to steep themselves again in the atmosphere and high traditions of their training school, and reminded them how much they owed to those who had gone before, to the wise leadership and personal character of their Matrons, of Miss Rogers and, later, of Miss Vincent, who were responsible for the high repute of the school, and who had contributed so largely to its success.

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE CAMP.

Miss J. Macfee writes: "The enclosed account of our 'Camp' has been written by a Sister on furlough from China, who asked me to forward it to you":

"A Happy Spirit, a sense of fellowship."

N.M.L. Camp! What does it mean? A lovely holiday for nurses this year at Sheringham. And it means first, and all the time, welcome and kindness of the Camp mothers with detailed arrangements to suit our pleasure. Can you imagine nurses from various parts of England, both from our cities and the country and some from China and Africa, too—Matrons, Sisters, Nurses, Pros. from institutions and

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