

English gave a vivid word picture of the work done to help young men and boys who leave their native towns and wander forth in search of work by foot across many counties.

The helpers have banded themselves together by the title of "WAYFARERS" and they make strenuous efforts to provide food, shelter, clothing, also work when an opportunity of even the flimsiest chance presents itself, for these wanderers whose own resources soon come to an end. The results, both socially and economically, have proven most truly worth while. Mrs. English's personal efforts have been especially connected with Blackborough House, near Cullompton, Devon, nine miles from her own home at Honiton. She carried away good wishes and a deep stirring of desire to render her assistance from all the members who listened with keen interest to her deeply moving and yet encouraging account of the work already achieved for these well-intentioned men for whom present industrial conditions have made life very difficult and brought many to breaking-point.

At the Social Gathering in the Great Hall still more members had collected and were greeted by the President. Tea tables soon filled up with parties of old friends, and Miss Janet Stewart's Scotch Bun from Moffat, her Annual Gift of tender remembrance of her sister, Isla Stewart's Foundation, was much in evidence and appreciated.

THE NIGHTINGALE FELLOWSHIP.

We congratulate the Nightingale Fellowship most sincerely on the Commemorative Number of its Journal, in which matter, printing and illustrations are all admirable.

The President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, who, to her deep sorrow and regret, was unable to join in the Commemoration Service, in a Foreword commends to the Fellowship the King's message to the children of London, which she thinks its members might well take to themselves.

"You are heirs of a great School and the future is yours and your high responsibility. Strive to become good citizens. To this end make the best of your powers, working worthily for Empire, Country, Our School and in the Service of Mankind."

Several members in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the School have contributed sketches of the hospital and school as they knew it in various phases. "We see," says the Editor, "the earliest days through the eyes of Mrs. Strong; Miss Masson and Miss Hampson guide our steps through the 'eighties, and Miss Redl continues the tale almost up the War. The years 1914-1919 are set before us by Miss Vezey and Miss Quentrall, while two short poems taken from a war time magazine issued in the hospital show us that military life had its frivolous side! Miss Routh brings the story up to date, and the present Nightingale Home invokes the Muse to show that labour is not too arduous to admit of a lighter vein. Lastly, Miss Nightingale's inspiring words, as true to-day as in 1883, put her ideas once more forcibly before us. It seemed likewise a good opportunity to print the Fellowship's special prayer which is used at the service of commemoration."

The Journals of the Fellowship and of the Leagues of other Nurses' Organisations are indeed repositories of nursing history of a very valuable kind, as the information they collect is obtained first hand from those who have lived through it.

Miss Flora Masson, R.R.C., writes: "When I first saw St. Thomas's Hospital it was actually being built, rising out of its foundations on the Thames-side. I was a child standing on Westminster Bridge, and looking down on a little world of bricks and mortar, with hundreds of men moving about among the bricks, rather like ants in a series of ant-hills.

"That," I was told, "is the great new hospital that is being built; and little did I dream that I should one day be living and working in it myself."

Miss Vezey, R.R.C., writes as one of the "dug-outs" of the war, who worked in the Fifth London General Hospital, a Territorial Unit incorporated in the Hospital with the Matron as Principal Matron. "Crowded memories of that time are many, and then—last, but most sacred memory, comes that remembrance of Armistice Day, a day about which words fail all of us, a day when Big Ben found its voice and boomed out his eleven strokes almost stunning us with the realisation of all that this sound symbolised. The one thing to be done seemed to be to gather in the Chapel in thankfulness that peace was come at last."

Miss G. C. Quentrall, R.R.C., concludes her article on the subject of the "Fifth London General" with the following quotation from a letter written to members of the Territorial nursing staff by the Treasurer after the closing of the Military Hospital:

"The Governors appreciate the devotion which you have given to this service on behalf of your old training school, and it will ever be one of the proudest glories of the Nightingale School, founded by the first great Matron-in-Chief of the British Army Nursing Service, that the Nightingale Nurses so successfully undertook the whole nursing service of a complete military unit which won such high appreciation and thanks from the authorities who were in a position to compare their work with that of the whole nursing service in this great war."

Lastly, in this *annus mirabilis*, "the long-cherished dream is to come true, and St. Thomas's is to have a new Nurses' Home, thanks to the great generosity of Lady Riddell. Dare one hope," says the Editor, "that it will be ready to welcome the International Nurses' Congress of 1937?"

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League had a very successful reunion on June 6th, when approximately 90 members were present.

The meeting, which was held in the Nurses' Home of the Royal Infirmary, was preceded by a short address in the hospital chapel, conducted by Canon H. V. Williams, C.F. An exhibition of needlework and photography was held in connection with the meeting—Mrs. W. Keay was the judge, and came during the tea and social gathering to present the prizes and report about the work.

Many League members were sorry to hear that Mr. Harry Johnson, House Governor and Secretary, is seriously ill at his home. [Since this was written we regret to say that Mr. Johnson has passed away.—Ed.]

THE NURSES' LEAGUE OF THE ROYAL ALEXANDRA INFIRMARY, PAISLEY.

At Paisley, in the Recreation Hall of the Nurses' Home, the Fourth Annual Meeting and Summer Re-union of the Nurses' League was held on Saturday, 29th June. Miss Monie, President, was in the chair.

After the reading of the Treasurer's Report, Miss McPherson, Matron of Bandrum Children's Hospital, gave a most interesting and enjoyable account of the work there, which is made possible by the generosity of the late Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who has done so much real philanthropic work.

Miss McPherson's address was listened to with rapt attention and great pleasure and amusement, as she told us some of her methods among the tiny patients.

The Certificates were then presented to the nurses who have just passed the Final State Examinations by Mrs. Clow, and prizes to those in an earlier stage of their career.

Miss Shepherd and Miss Manson, 1st equal in Medical Nursing.—Prizes presented by Dr. McFadzean.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)