

the men's and women's wards can be transferred into a "talkie" theatre where films are shown twice a week.

No doubt the time will come when the general wards will be brought more up to date. After visiting the new buildings they certainly strike one as dark, awkward and somewhat unhygienic. In the spaces between the beds lie long refectory tables; and here at *déjeuner* time such patients as can safely leave their beds will be found sitting down informally to a meal that a kindly Sister ladies out to each in turn. Yet here, too, as everywhere else in Tours hospital, the patients seem wonderfully happy, and indeed the whole place breathes an atmosphere of calm unhurried work, of devotion, of tolerance, and of repose.

M. A.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The 33rd Anniversary of the Nurses' Missionary League is being held in University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Thursday, May 7th. All Members and Friends of the League are cordially invited to be present. These Meetings are usually most inspiring. The work the League is doing all over the world makes for righteousness.

PROGRAMME.

Power for Service

"I have strength for anything through Him who gives me power." Phil. iv. 13. (*Weymouth Trans.*)

MORNING SESSION, 10.15—12.30.

"Out of weakness were made strong."

Chairman: Miss J. Macfee. Hymn and Prayers.

Addresses: What is power? Miss J. Macfee.

Life, Love, Liberty. Miss W. F. Wheeler (Metropolitan Hospital), Quetta.

Interval.

Hymn.

Life in a Women's Hospital in India. Miss Midgley (Royal Infirmary, Preston), Karim Nagar.

Intercessions.

AFTERNOON CONVERSAZIONE, 3—5.30.

"Strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

Hostesses: Mrs. Coote, Mrs. Sturge, Miss MacManus, Miss Walton.

Addresses: The strength in quietness and confidence. Miss Guyler (General Hospital, Nottingham) Maseno. "And ye shall receive power." Miss Turvey (King's College Hospital) Leper Work, S. Africa.

Refreshments.

Bookstall.

EVENING SESSION, 7.30—9.30.

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power."

Chairman: E. P. Poulton, Esq., D.M., F.R.C.P.

Hymn and Prayers.

Chairman's Remarks.

Review of the year, Miss Richardson.

Adoption of Annual Report and Election of Committee for 1936-37.

Missionary Address: "Then and Now." Miss F. E. Campbell (Guy's Hospital), South India.

Address: Hugh Redwood, Esq.

Hymn. Collection.

Closing Address: "The Dynamic of Life." The Rev. C. Sydney Crowson, M.A.

Prayers and Benediction.

Nurses' Camp.

The Nurses' Camp organised by the League will be held this year at Barmouth, North Wales, from June 13th to 27th, and is arranged to provide a really happy holiday where by means of beautiful surroundings, friendship, rest and recreation, nurses may be built up physically and spiritually for future work.

Barmouth is on the North-west coast of Wales, with a beautiful sandy bay on the one side and splendid mountains on the other, and bathing and picnics and excursions will

be a feature of each day's programme. Camp will be housed in the Marine Hotel, which stands a few yards from the shore, overlooking the Bay. The cost is from 6s. 6d. to 9s. a day for full board and baths.

Those desiring to "camp" should register as soon as possible.

For further particulars apply to Miss Richardson, 135, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.

FAMINE.

Miss Helen J. Heald, of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, writing from Malindi, Nyasaland, says: I make no apology for what I am about to write, I merely send it to the Editor of *Central Africa* with a request that it may be published. Famine! Yes, you may be tempted to say we have heard all this before, there are always famines in India and Africa and in other parts of the world. But please do not put the paper down and leave it at that. Until a thing really touches us, until it really hits hard, until it is driven right home into our very lives, we do so very little, we are content to go on in the same old path.

In the villages and through the station all day we see little silent processions, little groups of people, perhaps just one or two, children, youths and girls, men and women, the aged, the diseased and the weak; day by day, they get thinner and thinner, gaunt figures with hungry eyes, and a look of hopelessness, some with just enough strength to drag along, sparsely clad, some just covered with a few rags, some have not had a good meal for weeks or months, they are in search of food, they go on until they are too weak to walk, having lost all interest and hope in life, they lie and wait for death.

Come to the Leper Colony. All treatment has been stopped as the lepers are too weak to stand injections. For days they were without any food, and now they are having just enough to keep them alive. . . .

For the medical work, the hospitals are closed just at the time we could care for the starving sick, the leper work is impossible, the out-patient work and the work in the villages has to be very carefully chosen, for many of our drugs used for treatment and injections, would be dangerous or fatal administered to starving people. The school holidays have been extended owing to poor attendance, because the children spend all the time searching for bits of food. The African staff and workpeople on the station are too weak to do a fraction of a day's work, neither can the Mission employ them unless we are prepared to feed them. How can we feed the hungry without food? For my own part I have no food at all, not even for one sick man."

Miss Heald asks: "What are you going to do about it." If you think a donation could not be put to a better purpose than to help these starving Africans, send it to the Secretary, U.M.C.A., Central Africa House, Wood Street, Westminster, S.E.1.

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

With all honour the remains of Father Damien, a simple peasant priest, who gave his life to succouring the lepers of Hawaii nearly 50 years ago and eventually contracted the disease from which he died, were brought back to his homeland on May 3rd. The leper apostle's remains were received at Antwerp by King Leopold of the Belgians and dignitaries of the Church.

A special *Daily Sketch* picture shows the draped bier, containing the coffin, drawn by six white horses and flanked by priests and soldiers, on its way to Antwerp Cathedral. The body will finally rest in the Belgian hamlet of Tremeloo, Father Damien's birthplace.

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