

ducted an admiring company over this new institution, so amazing in its structural beauty and utility.

The meeting expressed very grateful thanks to the Board of Management and the Medical Superintendent of High Grove Sanatorium, and especially to Miss Ruddy for the splendid hospitality it had received, and their hostess's unique arrangements which had provided such an instructive and delightful visit to be long remembered by those privileged to attend.

#### THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The sixth annual general meeting, and reunion of members, attracted a goodly number of past and present members on Saturday afternoon, May 16th.

The proceedings were inaugurated by a service in the very beautiful Chapel of the hospital, the entrance to which, studded with mural memorials to departed members of the nursing and medical staff, stirred the imagination and set it picturing the sort of men and women they commemorated.

Men famous in their day and generation whose skill and knowledge were lavishly bestowed on the suffering—young lives cut off in early manhood, but whose tablets bore testimony that he liveth long who liveth well—Sisters and Nurses whose long and faithful service was gratefully recorded, gave us pause as we passed into the beauty of holiness so eloquent in this house of God.

We felt that its atmosphere must surely permeate and ennoble the daily life in the wards of this great house of suffering and inevitable sorrow, and redeem so much that in a hospital, no less than in the world outside, tends to become sordid and pagan.

The address was given by the Rev. W. E. Cargill, a former chaplain, who took for his text the words "Master, where dwellest Thou?" which he said did not literally mean "Where do you live?" but, "What sort of world do you inhabit? How much of this beautiful world do you live in? Not what you get out of it, but what you put into it. Our Blessed Lord had no home of His own. He lived, like many of those present, in the homes of others.

The appropriate hymn, "He who would valiant be," was sung by a choir of Nurses.

The business meeting, held in the Courtauld Memorial Hall, followed, presided over by the Matron, Miss Dorothy Smith, as President of the League.

She announced that the League now numbered 599 members, 45 of whom had joined in the past year.

She invited interest in the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund, and also in the coming International Congress of Nurses to which they could give a donation of £30 if each member were to subscribe one shilling.

She said that it was not likely to be held again in London in the lifetime of those present, and they would no doubt like to feel that they had taken a share in the expenses, which would be very heavy.

The remarks of the President were greeted with great applause. She then introduced the speaker, Mr. A. E. Johnson, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., T.D., who, in a humorous and delightful address, spoke of "The Romance of Rebuilding," and gave his audience many interesting peeps behind the scenes.

Though he had fought against the decree of the old building's demolition, he now saw what a mistake that had been, and that there could have been no sensible alternative. There were eight lifts in the new hospital, which were all essential to getting into touch with wards and colleagues. There were a hundred beds not yet open, and so far it had not been decided what type of case they would be used for. They had built on the site the maximum it could contain, and it was to be available for all classes, from the millionaire to the humblest person, who

needed the facilities of the general hospital. He quoted Sir Frederick Treves, who, when thanked by King Edward for his services, replied: "Sir, you have had the same treatment as the humblest of your subjects." The number of operating theatres had been greatly increased, and he described the immense advantages of "twin theatres," where the surgeon could save valuable time by leaving the case after the critical moment had been passed, and handing over the work to be completed by the second in command, and proceed to the second theatre, where another patient would be waiting for his services.

He described the very deliberate and delicate methods which were imperative for modern brain surgery, an operation for which with a local anæsthetic might occupy five hours.

The "romance of the nurses' home," was short and very sweet. The lecturer was describing his visions for the same to a friend, when the latter asked how much it would cost: "£300,000" was the reply. "Let's do it," said he who remains anonymous.

Tea was served in the Nurses' Home, and a very good tea it was. All sorts of nice things were pressed on the visitors by Nurses and maids, who vied with one another in willing service.

The dining room was a delight, panelled with unpolished oak, with uncovered tables and chairs, unupholstered, of the same unpolished wood. The gay spring flowers showed to great advantage with this background. Needless to say the reunion was a very real one, and there was a hum of conversation and exchange of news and greetings among the members.

We had not time to see much of the Home, but we visited the beautiful swimming pool, which is so splendid an asset to the Home in which it is the privilege of the Middlesex Nurses to spend some of their leisure. H. H.

#### GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of the Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League was, as usual, a very pleasant function, preceded by the annual dinner, at which a number of friends foregathered.

At the Business Meeting, at which Miss R. Dreyer presided, the Annual Report was presented by Miss E. E. P. MacManus, O.B.E., Matron of the Hospital and Hon. Secretary of the League. It opened with the inspiring statement that in all respects the year 1935-1936 had been a successful one.

On May 1st of this year there were 1,649 names on the League's Register, an increase of approximately 80 members on the last year's figures; these were mostly Associate Members, who, on completion of their training, have been transferred to the Past Members' Section. The League had lost six members by death: Miss Victoria Jones, Matron of Guy's Hospital from 1882-1893; Miss Symons, Nurse Stevens, Nurse Hockley, Miss Constance Earp, and Miss Oxford, at one time Lady Superintendent of the Guy's Trained Nurses' Institute, the writer of a good early book on Nursing.

Satisfactory reports had been received from the representatives of the different sections of the League.

During the past year the number of Sisters and Nurses who spent week-ends and days and nights off at the Cottage was not so high as usual, but this was because, owing to the opening of Nuffield House, and the consequent increase of the Nursing Staff, there were not sufficient bedrooms in the Nurses' Home, and temporary accommodation had to be found for nurses elsewhere. The Nurses' League agreed to rent to the Governors of the Hospital some of the rooms at the Cottage for a short period, and this arrangement brought to the income of the League the pleasant addition of £25 0s. 3d.

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