

présent testified, that they had found them a great support and help.

After a lively discussion the business of the meeting concluded, and a welcome tea was served in accordance with the best R.B.N.A. traditions.

#### LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

By courtesy of Miss Macdonald the General Meeting was held at the House of R.B.N.A.

Miss Ballard, S.R.N., D.N., in introducing Mrs. Brook, S.R.N., S.C.M., stressed the fact that the League was non-party, non-political, but that it was advisable to hear all sides of the question of trades unionism.

Mrs. Brook began her address by giving an interesting account of the history of trades unionism, which was founded in 1875. In 1890 there were 100,000 women workers; in 1907 200,000, mostly in the textile industries. Since the Great War many organisations have sprung into being. The National Union of Teachers is 95 per cent. organised. It has brought about many improvements for the teachers—notably the Burnham Scale. The Bank Officers' Guild and Equity are more recent organisations.

Eventually all trade unions become affiliated to the T.U. Congress; this body helps and advises the affiliated unions; also frames Parliamentary Bills. All kinds of people belong to, and all professions are represented at, the Trades Union Congress, which aims at bringing about better conditions by conciliation and by arbitration.

The Nurses' Section is run by nurses; paid for by nurses; and they have the right to nominate their own representatives to the T.U. Congress.

Mrs. Brook ended her interesting address by saying that potential nurses were on strike because of the existing conditions allowed by the older members of the profession. In ten years' time all medical services would be State aided; then all medical and nursing services would be free. In her opinion the State-aided Hospitals of the Scandinavian countries were the best, but English nursing was still the best in the world.

Miss Nelson, S.R.N., D.N., in her reply asked what was the reason for this sudden interest in nurses on the part of the trades unionists? Was it a campaign for new members, or was it a genuine desire to help nurses? Nurses were already organised, there is not room for trades unions—unless the present voluntary system breaks down—there cannot be any half measures. Nurses themselves are so apathetic about their own welfare. All the present organisations cater for the many branches of the profession. Why are they not supported? (1) Because headquarters are in London; (2) because nurses do not vote; they have a Parliamentary vote but few use it; they are entitled to vote for all their organisations, some never bother to do so. We are members of the noblest profession open to women; ought we not to earn our welfare, not demand it? The remedy lies in getting back to work for work's sake. All nursing traditions have been built up by individual effort, not by mass attack. What would be the result of trades unionism? There would be loss of public opinion and confidence, the status of the nurse would be lowered. With the advent of trade unionism and all its attendant materialism, idealism would be lost.

A short discussion followed.

#### MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The 59th Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association will be held at the House of the Royal British Nurses' Association on Saturday, December 4th, at 2.30 p.m., and will be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee at 2 p.m.

#### THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

A general meeting will be held in the Lecture Room, Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Saturday, December 4th, at 3 p.m., preceded by a short service in the Chapel of St. Bartholomew-the-Less at 2.30 p.m.

An address will be given by the Very Reverend the Dean of St. Paul's (Dr. Matthews).

The new Medical Block, the Diet Kitchen, and the "Smithfield" Canteen and Rest Rooms will be on view.

Tea in the Nurses' Sitting Room at 4 p.m.

#### ASSOCIATION OF QUEEN'S SUPERINTENDENTS.

##### The Election of the General Nursing Council.

The Association of Queen's Superintendents has nominated Miss J. P. Watt for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to represent nurses on the general part of the Register, and invites the support of all electors who feel that her many years of varied pioneer work as Queen's Nurse, Superintendent, County Superintendent, Inspector of Midwives, Superintendent of Health Visitors, Organiser and Inspector, have enabled her to gain most intimate knowledge of the domiciliary nursing needs of the community, and to gather experience that would be of value to the General Nursing Council.

The Council of the Queen's Institute has sanctioned the off-duty necessary for committee work, etc., in the event of election, but Miss Watt would not ask for time off to take part in the inspection of hospitals.

Miss Watt will be pleased to attend any meeting of nurse-electors wishful to meet her.

Signed:

R. M. BLUNDELL, *Chairman.*  
C. EALES, *Hon. Secretary.*

1, Bedford Gardens,  
Kensington, W.8.

#### THE UNITED NURSING SERVICES CLUB.

We are asked to state that the meeting of the Shareholders of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, London, W., will be held on Monday, November 22nd, at 2.45 p.m., to be followed by a general meeting of the members at 3 p.m.

The members of the House and Finance Committee retire automatically on November 22nd, 1937.

Any member of the Club wishing to nominate a member to serve on this Committee should apply to the Secretary not later than November 8th for a nomination paper.

#### POPPY DAY.

We do hope Poppy Day has resulted in a bumper collection. £600,000 is needed to finance the benevolent work of the British Legion for ex-Service men and their dependents. In his appeal Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice states:—

"The greatest difficulty with which aging men had to contend was chronic sickness. Each year an increasingly large number were becoming permanently incapacitated. They were victims of heart disease, paralysis, arthritis, tuberculosis, and malignant diseases. Because of the years which had passed and the absence of direct proof that their sickness was due to War service, few were pensionable."

#### LATE ITEM OF NEWS.

Seven Registered Nurses, headed by Miss Olive Baggal-lay, Secretary of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, have issued a pink slip inviting votes for eight nominees, members of the College of Nursing, for election on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. No indication of the policy of these candidates is put forth in the leaflet.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)