

THE LONDON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF NURSES.

The *London Hospital League of Nurses' Review* has, from its inception, been one of the very best League journals—it is issued by a Standing Review Sub-Committee of nine experienced members, and of which Miss Charlotte Hughes is Hon. Editor and Chairman.

Miss Littleboy, A.R.R.C.—that very liberal-minded lady—still retains the office of President; and the new Matron, Miss Mabel Reynolds, is Acting President.

"Matron's Letter" contains a practical report of improvement in the nurses' regulations. Steady progress has been made in lessening the hours of duty. The Committee has granted a further increase in salaries for the Nursing Staff, and Nurses in their fourth year now receive £65; private Staff Nurses in their fifth year, £75, rising to a maximum of £120. The Ward Sisters receive, in addition to the £10 annual increment (up to a maximum of £160), in addition £10 per annum in view of their ever-increasing teaching responsibilities. Meetings have been arranged for the Sisters, with the idea of encouraging a greater uniformity of the practical teaching in the Ward and the maximum utility of the White Books, resulting in most stimulating and fruitful discussions.

The scheme to give nurses greater responsibility as regards their freedom in the evening has justified itself. Nurses in training now have the option of going out until 10.30 p.m., after supper at 8.30, and lights are put out at 11 p.m. A Supper Pass, with Late Pass until midnight is allowed once a week to first and second-year nurses; twice a week to third year; and the trained staff have late passes at their discretion.

To add to his arduous duties, the Steward has taken over the catering for the Nursing Staff, the Maids, also "Theatre Teas," and now he feeds some 2,500 hungry folk a day! Simple "packed" lunches—of sandwiches, cake and fruit—have also been a welcome innovation for any member of the Nursing Staff who plans a picnic for her off-duty time. Miss Filer and Miss Watkins have proved themselves capable of excellent pioneer work in this re-organisation scheme; while all the Home Sisters have been indispensable in helping with the many necessary adjustments. The responsibility of the daily workers and wardmaids has been nobly shouldered by Miss Lily Hobbs.

Many of the Private Staff and Hospital Staff Nurses have reverted to the original "Sister Dora" cap; while the option of a somewhat modified type has been welcomed by others. The idea of a distinguishing mark for Nurses in their third year has been put forward, and a stiff belt of the check material has been approved. Many will be interested to know how much Private Staff Nurses appreciate the freedom of wearing mufti in their off-duty time when at private cases, providing their patients also approve of the suggestion.

"It was impossible to write to you at the moment without making some reference to the anxiety of the latter days of September. . . . It has been most heartening to sense such a spirit of undoubted loyalty and of deep determination to maintain our 'London' tradition. The many offers of assistance and welcome letters received from 'Old Londoners' can never be forgotten, but serve as yet another proof of what 'The Londoner' means to us."

No. VII of the *Review* is full of most interesting matters and is, we have no doubt, eagerly read by members of the League.

THE SICK CHILDREN'S NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

An open meeting of the above Association was held at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, December 3rd.

Forty-seven members and associate members attended. Miss Clieve (Matron) welcomed the members on behalf of

Miss Eills, Chairman of the Hospital. The chair was taken by Miss Coulton, President of the Association.

Miss Coulton outlined the need for the formation of the Association, mentioning that although the importance of children as the backbone of a nation was recognised, the desirability of a trained Sick Children's Nurse for the care of the sick child was not always appreciated by members of the Nursing profession.

Doctors often complain of difficulty of finding a children's trained nurse for private practice, and Miss Coulton hoped it would be possible to form a register of nurses available and qualified for that type of work. Later, when finances increased, a co-operation might be formed.

There was no representation of the Sick Children's Nurses at the recent Congress of Nursing, and it is hoped that the Association will qualify for application to become a member of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Miss Coulton wished to deny any suggestions that the Association had any desire to cramp the work of the College of Nursing, but she pointed out that the College of Nursing did not recognise the State Registered Children's Nurse as a trained nurse and that the only way such nurses could join the College was as a student nurse.

It is the aim of the Association to be of social, intellectual, and professional use to its members, and suggestions and questions are invited.

A dance is to be held early in the New Year at Chelsea Town Hall, and later on it is hoped to arrange lectures.

Miss Machell, hon. treasurer, read a statement of the accounts.

Miss Lane, hon. secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting.

Miss Clieve opened a discussion on the desirability of obtaining for the State Registered Sick Children's Nurses, recommended by their Matrons, an entry into general hospital training schools as second-year nurses, after they had passed through the preliminary training school of that hospital. It was agreed that three years' general training was valuable, but that the third year could be of most value to the nurse and the hospital if she spent it as Staff Nurse or beginning some special training such as Midwifery.

The meeting ended with tea and visits to the wards. The next meeting will be held in Glasgow on February 18th.

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The 63rd Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held on Saturday, December 3rd, 1938, at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W., preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

At this meeting the following were elected to membership of the Association:

Miss M. Baldwin, Matron, Leicester Frith Institution, Leicester;

Miss A. Macmillan, Matron, Barnwood House, Gloucester.

After the business meeting, Miss Ashford, Matron of Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans, and Miss Taylor, Matron of Kent County Mental Hospital, Chartham, read papers on "The Care of the Mentally Defective in Denmark," and recounted their impressions of mental colonies in that country from visits made in August last.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at Charing Cross Hospital Nurses' Home by invitation of the President, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., on Tuesday, December 6th. The President took the Chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

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