

their health ; then supervision and obedience may prove irksome ; and, after some portion of her training has passed a woman may realise, or those, who are training her, discover, that she does not possess the qualities which will make her a good Nurse. During a shorter training, a woman braces herself for the effort : the end is nearer, the shortness of the time encourages her, and those under whom she works have not the same opportunities of really testing and learning her capabilities. I think we may very fairly compare a short training to the short service system in the army, and we know, on the most competent authority, that it has not improved the service or been a success. We get recruits, but the material is not so good, and they leave the service just as they are beginning to benefit by training and discipline. In all the campaigns where England has been victorious it was the old well-trained soldiers that won battles, and in modern wars our Generals have picked out the old soldiers to bear the brunt of the fighting ; and so it must be in every profession in life. We cannot have anything like perfection without laborious, steady, hard work, for the more we know the more we realise how imperfect is our knowledge. Surely it must be so with Nursing, where so many other qualities besides professional ones are required. The professional knowledge which we ask of a Nurse is hardly more important than the tact and discretion, which is so often wanted and so often unattainable. Hard work and long training will, with capacity, make her what we want professionally ; and though it will not necessarily bestow other qualities, it will go a long way towards developing them, for in the devotion and self-effacement necessary to her calling, and in the intimate knowledge she must gain of the sorrows and mysteries of life, she will, if she is a true woman, learn lessons which will make her, not only a good Nurse, but one upon whose patience, sympathy and devotion we can rely, and to whose care we gladly confide all that we hold most precious and dearly loved in the world.

MARY JEUNE.

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## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

By command of Her Royal Highness the President, a special meeting of the Registration Board was held at the offices on Tuesday, November 14th, at 5 p.m.

The arrangements for the *Conversazione*, to be held on Thursday, December 7th, are now almost complete. It will be held in the galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, and will commence at 8.30 p.m.

The programme for the evening is already will filled, and the cordial thanks of the Corporation are due to those who have so kindly promised their assistance on the occasion. The members of the St. Bartholomew's Choral Society, which is composed of Students and Nurses attached to that Hospital, will give an entertainment, consisting of orchestral pieces, glees, and violin solos. Lady Edwardes-Moss has been good enough to arrange for the Ladies' Mandolin Band to play selections during the evening, and amongst others the following well-known artistes have already generously consented to give their services :—Miss Mary Carmichael, Madame Larkcom, Miss Louise Phillips, and Mrs. Felix Semon.

With the promise of such assistance, it is hoped all members of the Association will help to make this, the first *Conversazione* of the Chartered Corporation, most successful. Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary at the offices, and early application should be made to prevent disappointment.

It is hoped to make further announcements concerning the *Conversazione* next week.

The first Lecture of the winter session will be given on Friday evening, November 17th, at 20, Hanover Square, W., commencing at 8.30 p.m. The lecturer will be Dr. Bezly Thorne (Hon. Secretary of the Corporation), and the subject, "The open-air treatment of Phthisis at Falkenstein in Germany." Admission free to members ; 1s. to others.

Mr. W. J. Walsham, F.R.C.S., has most kindly consented to deliver the lectures on Anatomy, of which notice has been already given. The course will consist of six lectures, to be given on Wednesday evenings during January and February, commencing Wednesday, January 3rd. Admission free to members.

Inquiries having been received at the office concerning the presentation of "Members' Badges" at the *Conversazione*, notice is hereby given that no arrangements for this will be made this year.

All members of the Corporation, who may not yet have applied for their "Badges," and are desirous of doing so, are invited to communicate with the Secretary at once on the subject, in order that they may receive them in time for the *Conversazione*.

DAISY ROBINS,  
Secretary and Registrar.

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