

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference convened under the auspices of the Royal British Nurses' Association, on November 7th, at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. 1, was extremely well attended, notwithstanding the fact that the nursing profession at the present time is working to the limit, and almost beyond the limit of its powers, in caring for our sick and wounded soldiers, and grappling with the "influenza" epidemic. The yellow chrysanthemums and beautiful autumn leaves sent by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (one of the Societies affiliated to the Association), gave a charming touch of colour to the platform.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The disappointment of the afternoon was the announcement made from the chair by Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., Vice-Chairman of the Association, that Princess Christian, President of the Corporation, was unavoidably prevented by medical advice from being present. She then, by command of Her Royal Highness, read the following letter:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ORGANIZED SOCIETIES OF NURSES AFFILIATED TO IT.

It is a very great disappointment to me that circumstances over which I have no control should have arisen to prevent my presiding at your Conference to-day, a pleasure I had so much looked forward to. I had particularly wished to be with you all to-day, because I feel that the subjects before the Conference are of such real importance to each one of you, and that such a Conference must have a very far-reaching influence indeed on the development of the profession of nursing. That profession has now reached that stage, and I congratulate you on this, when help from outside its ranks can avail you little. If your profession

is to go forward, and hold its own amongst the foremost of those open to women, if the remuneration paid to our nurses is to be more in line with the magnificent services rendered by them to our Empire and the State, if we are to attain to the goal for which we are striving, viz., State Registration of Trained Nurses, on lines just to the interests of the Nurses and public alike, I am convinced that the effort must come from the ranks of the profession itself.

May I therefore appeal to you all to decide that the burden of organizing your profession, of protecting and promoting your interests, shall not be laid on the shoulders of the few, but that you will individually realize the powers you possess, and take a real active part, each one of you, in the management of the affairs of your profession. I feel this very strongly, and have done so for a long time.

May I take this opportunity of reminding you how much you can help by influencing your fellow nurses to join my Association, or one of the organized societies of nurses affiliated to it.

By combining in this way, and yourselves helping to bring the force of numbers behind your Royal Charter, and the powers which it gives you; there is nothing within reason that Nurses could not attain to for themselves and their great profession.

It is my deep and warm interest in Nurses and the nursing profession which has prompted me to write these lines and to speak thus frankly.

I send you all my very best wishes for a most successful Conference.

HELENA,

Princess Christian,
Princess of Great Britain and Ireland,
President of the
Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Heather-Bigg said that before proceeding to the business of the Conference, she felt sure the members would wish to send a message in reply to Her Royal Highness' letter. She

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)