

When the landlord informed us in April last, that he proposed to sell the house we were occupying, the best course appeared to be for the Executive Committee to consider at once whether it could contemplate purchase, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider the proposal in all its aspects and to report. Their recommendation that the Executive Committee should recommend the Council to make an offer for 194, Queen's Gate was ultimately adopted; after the usual delays, incident to such transactions, the house became our own and the Association was at last housed in a valuable property of its own. The problem of raising sufficient capital to meet the purchase required a considerable amount of attention, and loans were taken from various special Funds belonging to the Association, and from the bank; it is satisfactory indeed to be able to announce that, at the close of the year, we are able to meet all the first mentioned loans, that the price of the house has been paid down and all legal and other expenses incident to the purchase have been met, so that it only remains for us to commence paying off each year a portion of the loan of £1,800 from our bankers. We are deeply indebted to the enthusiasm and generosity of our Members in being able to reach such a satisfactory position of affairs; we have certainly had every encouragement from them. At the time when the purchase was first contemplated, one after another came forward and offered to lend without interest, or to guarantee amounts, so that, when the Committee met to consider the financial position, these voluntary offers covered a sum of twice the amount required to buy the house. While we chose the simpler method of taking a single loan from the bank we thank our Members none the less warmly for their confidence and their generosity.

Owing to the urgency of the need for meeting what was required for the purchase of the house some of our other Funds have suffered, and neither the House Beautiful Fund nor the Helena Benevolent Fund prospered so well last year; however, we have not had to refuse any requests for help from the latter, which is satisfactory.

We thank the nurses for much generosity and help in connection with the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that this year it has invested another thousand pounds. Only those who are responsible for the correspondence know what this Fund means to those on its long list of annuitants, and often we wish that some of the letters could be handed round to the people who have helped to build up the Fund. The Honorary Secretary is indebted to many R.B.N.A. Members also for voluntary help which has enabled us to invest far more than would have been possible had we been compelled to employ outside clerical assistance.

Altogether, as the year draws to its close, we are able to report good progress as regards the financial position of the Association and a substantial increase also in its Membership.

#### GIFTS TO THE CLUB.

We have received from Miss Sophie Munro a very unique gift in the shape of a little note from Florence Nightingale to one of her Nurses. This manuscript is in her own handwriting and bears her signature, it is written to Miss Charlotte Munro on the morning of her marriage to Dr. Milton of Cairo. Some of our older Members will remember that Mrs. Milton was, for many years, our able Lady Consul in Cairo, and Miss Munro expressed the opinion that her sister would have wished this treasured note from the great pioneer of modern nursing to be handed over to the Royal British Nurses' Association. We can assure Miss Munro that the Members will greatly prize it.

Gifts to the Club during the Christmas season have been very numerous and we trust that, if, in the rush of Christmas, we omit to mention any of them, the donors

will forgive such negligence. The collection is as follows:—Lady Leith of Fyvie, evergreens, Mrs. Temple, wine, flowers, evergreens, sweets, Mrs. Harte and Mrs. Donaldson, turkeys, Mrs. Crassweller, Miss Curd, Miss Sadleir, Miss Roach, Mrs. Woolf, flowers, Miss Birse, decorated horse shoe, Miss Treasure and Mrs. Temple, fairies for decoration, Miss Dunne, chocolates.

#### MISS CUTLER "AT HOME" AT THE CLUB.

Miss Beatrice Cutler was "At Home" on 7th December and a large number of friends came to the R.B.N.A. Club to partake of her hospitality. She had chosen the anniversary of the Association's foundation for her gathering and everyone seemed to enjoy meeting old friends.

#### DONATIONS.

**HOUSE BEAUTIFUL FUND.** Association of Mental Matrons and Miss A. Glover, £5; Mrs. Temple, £2 10s.; Miss H. Lamb, £1 1s.; Mrs. Northwood, Misses R. Caesar, Macaulay, Sadleir, £1; Miss M. E. C. Atkinson, 19s.; Miss F. E. M. Howell, 15s. 6d.; Miss K. Walsh, 15s.; G. Portwine, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mrs. R. Strong, Mrs. D. M. Wrightson, Misses J. M. Bennetts, Bratton, Christopherson, Nugent, A. Osler, O. E. Rose, K. Walker, 10s.; Mrs. Moorhead, Mrs. Tribble, Misses Harland, Holdsworth, 5s.; Miss N. Winter, 2s.

**SETTLEMENT FUND.** Lady E. Mitchell, 10s.; Misses E. Mawe, M. Meredith, 2s. 6d.; Miss E. Page-Henderson, 2s.; Mrs. J. Welch, 1s.; Miss Birch, 10s.; Miss A. M. Parsons, 6s.; Mrs. Collett, Mrs. Stewart Murray, Mrs. Strong, Misses Clifford, K. N. A. Royds, Siddons, 5s.; Miss B. McDougall, 1s.

**GENERAL PURPOSES FUND.**—Miss H. Lamb, 16s.; Miss C. M. Alderman, 11s.; Mrs. E. Carrier, Miss D. K. Graham, 10s.; Miss J. Macleod Orr, 8s.; Lady E. Mitchell, Mrs. Tribble, Misses M. A. Cooper, M. Hilliard, F. E. M. Howell, E. Mawe, 5s.; Mrs. Baylis, Misses E. M. Cancellor, D. Evans, F. Heap, M. Meredith, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. A. L. Gurnett, Misses A. Cole, T. E. Terry, 2s.; Misses E. Spearling, E. Page-Henderson, 1s.

**HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.**—Miss P. F. Watt, £1 1s.; Church Street Nursing Home, Bath, and Miss Ada F. Rockett, £1; Misses K. Glover and I. B. H. Shaw, 10s.; Misses Bickerton, Chesswas, Chitson, H. A. Coombes, H. Giddins, M. Macmaster, R. M. Nattle, E. M. Waind, F. Wilson, 5s.; Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Boast, Mrs. J. V. Irvine, Mrs. E. Jacob, Misses A. M. D'Arcy, C. Clarke, Maxwell-Moffatt, M. Wooler, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. C. A. Bland, Miss M. Lamb, Fulham Hospital Nurses, 2s.; Misses E. M. Dickson, M. A. Goodman, 1s. 6d.; Misses K. E. Bangham, E. Cope, Ellen Dawson, H. A. Dean, E. C. Fenning, B. Fraser, Goodrich, G. le Feaux, I. le Feaux, Maunsell, Moase, Mountney, E. L. Smith, S. H. P. Sullivan, Walker, E. P. Webb, 1s.

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.

The Domestic Staff at the Club have asked us to convey to its Members thanks for having contributed so generously towards their Christmas box, and for all their kindness; we are also to say that their "stockings" were "a great thrill."

In carrying out their behests we would pay a tribute to these young people who, according to our Members, are always unfailingly courteous and "meet every request with a smile," a matter of no small importance to tired workers.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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