

how highly she was esteemed by her fellow-workers.

To perpetuate her memory by founding the "Amy Elizabeth Good Annuity" is a loving act, and I am deeply touched by the exceeding graciousness of your Royal President in permitting it, and also in allocating to this purpose the funds already collected for the third Princess Christian Annuity. It is to be regretted that so little is known here of the good of the Royal British Nurses Association, but in reading the Journal one gets some idea of the works of mercy done so cheerfully by the nurses, and I am proud to remember that my sister was a beloved fellow-worker.

It would, I know, have comforted her could she have known that she was to be kept in memory by the nurses providing, in her name, an annuity for a sister nurse.

May the Almighty ever bless your noble Association.

Yours most gratefully,

A. T. GOOD.

We have to thank the following for their kindness in helping us in the drawing-room, where all the pretty work was laid out:—Mrs. and Miss Price, Misses Booth, Brown, Cattell, A. Cutler, Dempster, Giffen, Gillighan, Howard, Pike, and Schuller. Miss A. E. Jones sold the delectable sweets she had herself made, and also many delicious cakes sent us by various members and their friends. Miss Holles and Miss Beatrice Cutler presided in the dining-room, where many delightful little tea parties collected at the tables to enjoy the good things provided.

We cannot close our report without expressing thanks to the domestic staff at Queen's Gate for the willing service which they gave to the work of raising fresh funds for the Association's work of benevolence—to Mrs. Burrell, our very expert cook, and to the others for their clever management of their tables, and their unfailing, quiet courtesy, which is so often a matter of comment from visitors to the Club.

#### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM THE NURSES TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF KENSINGTON.

The Royal Borough of Kensington has "adopted," as its own particular foster-child, the village of Souchez, which lies in the devastated regions of France. Several members, in residence at the Club, went last week to a very interesting lecture by Dr. Rice-Oxley, Mayor of Kensington. The account which he gave of existing conditions in this once flourishing and happy little town was sad in the extreme. Where once there were happy homes and thriving shops, scarcely one stone is left upon another, and from among the débris there rise such pathetic little sign-posts to show where once there stood a shop or workhouse, and to indicate that the former owner still holds his title to the small patch of land, and hopes yet to erect some sort of dwelling there. In the meantime, whole families find shelter in long corrugated iron buildings, which look far from comfortable. The

lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and Dr. Rice-Oxley made a very eloquent appeal for help for the scheme of the Borough Council to assist this village, which suffered so severely from the ravages of war.

One part of the scheme evidently lies very close to the heart of the Mayor of Kensington, and that is the plan of the Council to see that the little children of Souchez have their Christmas presents. Each little girl there is to have a doll, and we suggest that Members of the Association who have time to spare might, each one, dress a small doll, and forward it at an early date to the Mayor, Kensington Town Hall, S.W. We hope that many will decide to help the children in the "town of sad memories" to a happy Christmas, and at the same time they will thereby make a graceful acknowledgment of Dr. Rice-Oxley's goodness to several of their fellow-members. For, soon after we came into residence at Queen's Gate, he most kindly came forward and offered to act as Hon. Physician to the Club. Further, it is to be remembered that, side by side with the fathers of many of those little children of Souchez, there sleep men of Kensington, for the regiments, which were engaged round Souchez, were largely recruited from the district in which our Association now has its headquarters.

#### THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

The position of Nurses under the Unemployment Insurance Act is a matter which is still claiming the attention of the profession, and, up to the present, there is no immediate prospect of success for the efforts of those who have been urging the Ministry of Labour to provide for the exemption of Nurses from the operations of the Act.

The problem before the Nurses' Societies at present appears to be that of deciding whether they will still press for complete exemption or whether they will unite in trying to evolve some workable scheme, under paragraphs 17 or 18 of the Act, to minimise the inconveniences which arise for nurses if it is administered in the ordinary course.

So far as we can learn from those who have corresponded with us, the large majority of our members would prefer total exemption, but the Ministry hold out no hopes that this is attainable. Persistence sometimes works wonders, however, and if it would appear that the Nurses are still anxious for exemption, it may yet be possible to procure this. We shall be glad if they will give their attention to the subject and let us know their views. A copy of the Act can be procured from H.M. Stationery Office, 28, Abingdon Street, S.W. 1.

#### NOTICE.

The Members of the administrative staff of the R.B.N.A., while appreciating very deeply the goodwill which prompts the nurses to send gifts at Christmas-time, have established, in the office, a rule that this is not to be done, and hope that everyone will respect their wishes in this connection.

ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary to the Corporation.

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