

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

OUR ROYAL CHARTER.

Numbers of the Members have requested, from time to time, that a photograph of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, should be inserted in their official organ. We therefore asked for and obtained the gracious permission of Her Royal Highness to have it put into the Christmas issue. The Princess has ever had the interests of the nurses very close to her heart, and there are many movements connected with their profession which owe their success in large measure to the influence and support of Her Royal Highness. The Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association have, time and again, expressed with no uncertain voice their feelings of loyalty and devotion to their President for all her kindness to their Association, and for ever-ready sympathy and help in connection with any work which it finds good to undertake. But in the pages of Nursing History, both of the present time and time to come, her name will always be prominently associated with the grant of a Royal Charter to the nurses. For, in beautiful, old-time phraseology, the Preamble of the Charter commences, "VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME GREETING: WHEREAS, it has been repre-

sented to us by Our Most Dearly Beloved Daughter, Helena, Princess Christian," and there follow the representations made by Her Royal Highness as to why a Royal Charter should be granted to the Association, and later a list of Signatories to the Charter.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHRISTIAN
PRINCESS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES'
ASSOCIATION.

A Royal Charter is extremely difficult to acquire, particularly in modern times when the Companies' Act has come into force; almost any body can obtain incorporation under the Board of Trade, but the possession of a Royal Charter implies incorporation by the Crown. The most famous is, as most people know, the Magna Charta of King John, granted in 1215, and it was demanded in order to preserve the liberties of the English people. Ever since then Royal Charters have been associated

with constitutional privileges, granted under the sign manual of a Sovereign of the Realm. The Royal Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association offers to the nurses very far-reaching powers—powers which, if they would but combine and use them, would place their profession in the forefront of all women's professions and employments, and which could shelter and protect them individually. A close study of the Charter, too, shows the wisdom with which it was drafted, for, although it gives to the Corporation a status and a prestige which no other body of nurses in the Empire possesses, or is likely to possess, there is nothing in it to militate against the general

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)