

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

CONFERENCE.

THE PLACE OF THE TRAINED NURSE IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

The Honorary Secretary of the Association of Trained Nurses engaged in Public Health Work asks us to remind our members and other nurses of the Conference to be held to-day (Saturday), at 3 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., when the above subject will be under discussion.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, has graciously consented to preside at this first Conference arranged by the Committee appointed on January 10th last, and the Ven. Archdeacon Holmes, Hon. Domestic Chaplain to Queen Alexandra, Dr. Rorke, and Miss Le Geyt will be the speakers.

MANSION HOUSE MEETING.

Nurses and their friends are reminded of the meeting to be held at the Mansion House on Thursday, 13th inst., at 3 p.m. It is hoped that our own members and those of the affiliated societies will make every effort to be present to support the Lord Mayor and the speakers.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

The last report from the South Australian Branch of the Association is very satisfactory and the number of nurses joining the daughter Association is steadily increasing in each half-year. The Committee express their pleasure on the decision of Dr. Steele and Dr. Duguid to accept seats on the Committee and their appreciation of much helpful advice from Mr. Martin in connection with matters connected with finance. Many of the Army Sisters have already returned from the front and the Committee hope that before long the work of the Branch Association will again be carried on with its former smoothness. The problems arising from the shortage of nurses have been very difficult ones, throughout the past few years. The half-yearly balance-sheet shows the financial position of the Association to be highly satisfactory, and the report closes with an appreciation of the work done on behalf of the Association by the Chairman, Dr. Cecil Corbin.

REORGANISATION.

We read in the signs of the times a warning writ large upon the wall, that a time of upheaval, a time full of crisis to employer and employed alike, is upon us. A time it is, pregnant with fate, pregnant, as many believe, with grave danger as regards the future (and it certainly is so for the nurses), but none the less is it a time big with opportunity for a great rebuilding. Everywhere—be it in the world of art, of politics, of literature, or even in nature itself—we find a continual process of breaking and binding, of breaking and binding again, and always again. To-day in our national life, in all its branches, this process is going on more universally and with greater force than ever before in the history of the world; and it follows that every class in the community must recognise to the full the potency of the upheaval and so organise as to secure for each its rightful place in the great re-building, in the grand new fabric of national life, in which each individual has a responsibility as an architect "building in the walls of time." Otherwise inevitably there must follow the days, the months, the years, when they will sit by their untrimmed lamps like the virgins of old, and it will avail them nothing then to rate against the various restrictions, limitations and impediments in their path, which are but the fruits of failure to take the tide at its turning.

Up to the present, the nurses cannot be said to have been faced with any serious "labour crisis." Demobilisation goes on gradually, but increasingly into our correspondence there comes the refrain "I will soon have to be looking out for something." But why "soon"? Why not "now"? When we put the question thus, we do not wish it to be taken too literally, not as indicating that each nurse must commence making diligent search to secure for herself some particular niche. The matter is a wider one than that. No longer can we depend on ourselves alone as individuals in order to progress. Humanity has gone beyond that. It must grasp the fact that its building is to go out into the future now, and that it must lose the narrow outlook of the individual in that of the community. Inevitably, however, prosperity in any profession

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