

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Members of the Association are reminded that the Annual Meeting will take place at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 3 p.m. on Monday 30th inst. Tea will be served after the meeting.

THE CHILDREN'S DAY.

A flag day in aid of the Waifs and Strays Society is to be held on Tuesday, July 1st, and several members of the Association have arranged to take collecting boxes and to sell flags to help this Society which does so much for destitute children. We shall be very glad to hear from any other Members who are prepared to give up an hour or two on Tuesday to help this very deserving cause, and will be pleased if they will send in their names at once. Funds are very badly wanted indeed to feed and clothe the 5,000 children who are under the Society's care and those responsible for it will be very grateful for any help which the nurses will give.

APPOINTMENT.

Miss Edith Vicary has been appointed Theatre and Home Sister at the Princess Christian Nursing Home, Windsor. She joined the Association in the early part of the current year.

ENGAGEMENT.

Members of the Association will learn with much interest of the engagement of Miss Margaret Broadfoot to the Rev. L. Lloyd Jones. Mrs. Broadfoot is well known to many Members of this Association, and at several gatherings they have also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Broadfoot. Both Mrs. and Miss Broadfoot have been very welcome visitors at the Settlement Home, for they have always taken such a very friendly interest in the nurses there. There will be many kind wishes from the Members of the Corporation for Mr. Lloyd and his charming bride when the wedding takes place on July 1st.

WAKE UP NURSES.

During the past few weeks we have had many interesting letters from members who are working in the Colonies regarding the efforts being made to bring about better organisation in the nursing

world in England. There seems to be a general feeling that the nurses in the homeland are considerably less wide awake regarding their own professional affairs than are those trained in the Dominions and in the United States. They find it difficult to understand the lethargic attitude of mind adopted by many nurses to the present position of things and their willingness to allow others to arrange their affairs without criticism or question. Fragments of the ancient Indian religions tell us of a state after death in which the spirit is unconscious that it has left the physical body, and in which all the aspirations and desires of the physical body are retained without the power to satisfy those desires. It was said of the people that they were dead and did not know it, and just the reverse might be said of a great many nurses in the world to-day—they are alive and do not know it; in a sense they are little more than mere machines, entirely in subjection to the will of other people, so that at last they become incapable of viewing the world but through the eyes of others or of forming and acting upon opinions of their own. Such an attitude of mind in any profession or class of individuals is bound to give rise to hardships and, until the nurses become more articulate, their difficulties are not likely to be very materially lessened. The whole tendency of hospital training is to crush out individuality, to make the profession intellectually and economically into a class of serfs. We have no desire to minimise the value of discipline nor the spiritual development that service for others brings, but, from the speeches at the College Conference last week, we are inclined to believe that nurses get rather a surfeit of both the discipline and the service. One of the speeches seemed to make a nurse's career nothing but a long penance, the most dreary calling conceivable instead of one big with opportunity and experience. The very suggestion of an eight-hours' day was held to be the last word in selfishness apparently, and yet where in religious teaching do we find that long hours of physical toil make for virtue? The difficulty in deciding whether nursing is a vocation or a profession has, during the past twenty years, led to many calamities for the unfortunate nurses. In olden times those whose vocation it was to care for the sick worked under a very different regime in certain respects than that of the hospitals to-day, and

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