

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

**THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.**

## THE FUTURE STATE REGISTER.

### A REPLY TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS.

Enquiries constantly reach us as to whether members of the Royal British Nurses' Association need have their names placed on the Register of the College of Nursing, Limited, in order to ensure that they will automatically have them placed also on the State Register without the inconvenience of having to sit for the State Examination. We are requested to make the position quite clear in this week's JOURNAL, although it ought to be sufficiently obvious, even to the most casual enquirer, that, if any Register is taken over by the State, Parliament would not pass over that of an Association incorporated by Royal Charter (which virtually means incorporation by the Crown) and adopt that of a body incorporated under the Board of Trade.

It is provided for in the Bill that, during the first three years after it becomes an Act of Parliament, no nurse who is fully qualified will be required to pass an examination in order that she may be on the State Register, and therefore the argument (which we have heard quoted as being used by people who should know better) that nurses ought to join the College of Nursing, or they may find themselves permanently outside the State Register, falls to the ground.

We may add that repeatedly it has been suggested, and this before the College of Nursing was even thought of, that if the Royal British Nurses' Association would only promise that being on its Register would mean being automatically on the State Register, it would greatly increase its membership. The reply to the suggestion was that, apart from raising perhaps obstructive controversy on the point in the Central Committee, the Association would be taking the risk of having to

repudiate the undertaking. Neither the Royal British Nurses' Association nor the College of Nursing, Limited, has any right to pledge Parliament. Scarcely a day passes without enquiries being raised, such as those to which we referred, and the propaganda which gives rise to them, however ignorant and well-intentioned it may sometimes be, is much to be deprecated.

## LECTURE:

### LANDS AND PEOPLES OF THE LOWER DANUBE.

By JAMES BERRY, F.R.C.S.

When Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught was compelled to cancel her engagement to preside at Mr. Berry's lecture, Her Royal Highness the President graciously said that she would try so to arrange her engagements that she might take the chair. This, however, proved impossible, and Miss Helen Pearse (Superintendent of the London County Council School Nurses, and Hon. Treasurer of the National Union of Trained Nurses) presided. In introducing the lecturer, she referred to the magnificent work accomplished in the lands of the Lower Danube by Mr. and Mrs. Berry in their hospital during the war, and the pleasure which it gave her to have the privilege of presiding at Mr. Berry's lecture.

In commencing, Mr. Berry said that, if anything could console him for Her Royal Highness having found it impossible to take the chair, it was that Miss Pearse should preside. She had been one of his nurses when she trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and he had always had the greatest admiration and regard for her. Mr. Berry had a very appreciative and a large audience, and the whole lecture was illustrated by a wonderful series of lantern views. The first of those was a map, showing the configuration of the countries in very ancient times; then came one which Mr. Berry described as showing their configuration at a comparatively recent date, when certain movements of the earth threw up the Alps, the

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