

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION

"FOR VALUABLE SERVICES."

All members of the Corporation will learn with pleasure that in a War Office Communiqué, issued on August 15th, of "names brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for valuable services rendered in the United Kingdom in connection with the War," the name of the Medical Hon. Secretary, Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S., M.C., Cantab., appears. We in the Association know him best as a valued Hon. Officer, watchful over our interests and always ready to further them. But there are others to whom he is familiar as the Hon. Surgeon during the war of Queen Alexandra's Hospital for Officers at Highgate, where his surgical skill has brought relief to many hundreds of patients who have passed through his hands in this excellently managed institution. Incidentally, we may remember, too, that at a time when the financial value of the services of trained nurses was being depreciated, Mr. Paterson insisted that every nurse on the staff should receive £2 2s. per week.

APPOINTMENT.

Miss Marjory Murray has been appointed Matron of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, an appointment for which she is particularly well qualified, because she is not only a trained nurse, but she has had considerable experience in administrative work, previous to that which she did in France during the war.

Few institutions have a finer record of work behind them than that of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, which found their first beginning in the work of Dr. William Quarrier among the street boys of Glasgow when he founded the newsboys' and shoe-blacks' brigades. The family in the Homes last year comprised 1,775 orphan children. Each home is a nicely planned little villa; there is a special colony for epileptic children and three consumptive sanatoria, a hospital for invalid orphan children, a home for invalid girls, besides a church, school, farm and workshops, where the children may learn much that will be useful to them in after life. Altogether Miss Murray is likely to find plenty of scope for the energy and enterprise that have characterised the earlier parts of her career.

THE INFLUENCE OF COLOUR.

Some time ago there appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a letter which aroused considerable interest on the influence of colour from a therapeutic standpoint, and this might well receive a greater amount of attention. At one time I studied the subject rather closely myself, and came to the conclusion that it was one infinitely more profound than I had ever guessed. It seems to me that what we often hear lightly spoken of as a "colour scheme" is indeed a very subtle and elusive thing when we go beyond the mere act of perception. In the first place, it often only requires the proximity of two colours to entirely alter the tone of one or both. Then, too, how can we tell that all the shades are perceived in the same way by different individuals? We know that colour blindness, in a positive sense, does exist, but may there not be gradations as regards our individual perceptions of a colour? To go even further; I have not the actual quotation by me, but I think it was Goethe who said that colour is mere illusion, that colour as colour really does not exist, but is brought about by the deepening of density upon the white. This assertion opens up an unlimited field of speculation and study in connection with light and colour in relation to therapeutics.

COLOUR SCHEMES.

As regards the "colour schemes," already referred to, if certain enthusiasts in this direction would take nature for their teacher we should be spared the shocks we occasionally experience on entering their chambers of incongruities. All the colours of the spectrum and all the manifold gradations of those colours are to be found in nature and yet the whole is one complete harmony. Take the flowers themselves; nearly always we find the colour of their petals reflected in the leaves of the plant in some way and this is particularly striking in the case of some roses.

But a conscientious study of the influence of colour may lead us beyond mere harmony, as regards the blending of colours, to the consideration of certain aspects which touch the fringe of what might offer opportunity for study much more profound than I am capable of. From the

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