

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION

R.B.N.A.

CHRISTMAS, 1919.

Our Christmas message to the members of the R.B.N.A. is a threefold one of good will, of congratulations and of thanks. We would send to each individually our good wishes for a happy, peaceful Christmas time and for much prosperity in the coming year. A year it is which will be entered upon with very high hopes by all who have the welfare of their profession much at heart, for at last, after long years of patient, laborious striving, of great self-sacrifice on the part of the pioneers of nursing as a profession, after long revilings and persecutions from those who have opposed State Registration, the last few days before the Christmas of 1919 are rich with promise that the State Registration Bill will shortly be placed on the Statute Book. The old Anti-Registration Press is, after the old insidious, plausible fashion, endeavouring to mislead its readers as it has done in the past. Innuendos and hints, more or less guarded, are strewn throughout its pages to "train" the minds of readers to the view that the Act will not do so much for the nurses after all, the same old "black magic" again, handled now with waning success, by the same old "black magician," leering behind platitudes and sentiment as he tries to keep the nurses dancing on to his tune. Let none among us be deceived by efforts to influence the nurses to disregard or minimise their tide of opportunity. Dr. Addison's Bill for State Registration is big with possibilities for the nurses if they choose to use them. True, it does not lay down rigidly the precise lines of development on which the profession is to progress. The spirit of the evolution of the present day, while it demands certain safeguards in the laws it rears up, also requires a certain fluidity to allow of adjustment to the conditions of a period in the world's history when we must realise the fact that movements on all sides either progress with great rapidity or stay dead, and hence the need for a certain "enabling" quality in all measures. Dr. Addison does a bigger and grander thing for the nurses than making all the laws for their organisation himself. He places in *their own hands* the organisa-

tion, the destinies and development of the nursing profession. Every nurse should be alive to a realisation of new powers, of new responsibilities, and should become an architect in building up at last the *profession* of Nursing, for it is to be remembered that actually, until it receives the recognition and protection of the State, nursing can only be termed a profession in courtesy, not in fact.

The pioneers of this movement have won the long fight at last. Those who would be worthy to be their followers must have something not only of their clear vision, courage and tenacity, but also something of their understanding of the powers that lie inherent in every individual. Through their toil, their weariness, their effort and their money, the key to unlock wonderful possibilities has been handed to the nurses. Will they grasp, study, understand and use their Registration Act? It will require thought and exertion, but they cannot, with honour, leave it still to the few to fight their battles and to bear the stress and burden of the effort required to bring about progressive evolution either in education, economics or conditions of life in any body of workers.

In conclusion, at this moment of victory we send a message of sincere and heartfelt thanks to the members of the Association. With few exceptions, they have stood so loyally by their Association, and there are many (their names are too numerous to mention here) who have taken a very active part in helping us in different parts of the country where they are working. We will remember them always as our loyal comrades in that historic year 1919, and our thoughts go out in gratitude to them to-day, although we cannot send to each a separate message of thanks.

We are also indebted to the, following, who, during the current year, when the pressure of work at the office has been very great, have generously given voluntary help to the Association and the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund:—Mrs. Campbell Thomson (Nurse Hon. Secretary), Miss Anderson, Miss Bennett, Miss Bylett, Miss Cattell, Miss Coles, Miss Christie, Miss Giffen, Miss A. Good, Miss George, Miss Hawkes, Miss Hulme, Miss Ketteringham, Miss Lewis, Miss Liddiatt, Miss Munro, Miss MacWilliam, Mrs. Raikes, Miss Rawlings, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Sinzininex, Miss Staples, Miss Whitaker, Miss Winton.

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