

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE NURSE HONORARY SECRETARY IN THE HONOURS LIST.

We are pleased to observe in the last list of awards that the name of our Nurse Hon. Secretary appears as one of those who have received the rank of Officer (O.B.E.) of the Order of the British Empire. Throughout the war, Mrs. Campbell-Thomson did splendid work as Superintendent of one of the chief departments of the St. Marylebone War Hospital Supply Depot, where her practical and able management was very greatly valued. The members of the R.B.N.A. will learn with much pleasure of this award, and we offer to Mrs. Campbell-Thomson our sincere congratulations. We also warmly congratulate Miss Jane G. Watkins, Matron of the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, upon having received a similar award for her patriotic services in Egypt.

MUSICAL "AT HOME."

We learn that Mrs. Kenneth Stewart, wife of the Hon. Treasurer, is issuing invitations to the Members of the R.B.N.A. and its Affiliated Societies for Sunday, 18th inst., at 3.45 p.m., at 52, Wimpole Street. Those who are fortunate enough to be able to avail themselves of her invitation will enjoy a great musical treat, for Mr. Gervase Elwes, who is perhaps the most popular tenor singer of the day, is to sing, and other performers will be Miss Susanne Morvay and Signor Mannucci. H.R.H. the Princess Christain has graciously consented to be present, and it is probable that Their Highnesses the Princess Helen Victoria and Princess Marie Louise will be also present.

Mrs. Stewart has requested us to furnish her with a list of nurses to whom she should send invitations, and therefore we shall be glad if those who would like to attend will send their names and addresses to the office, when they will be added to the list.

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL.

A Sub-Committee of the Executive has been considering the Hours of Employment Bill as it affects nurses, and its deliberations will be brought before the Council at an early date. Whether or no the work of trained nurses is regulated by this Bill is a matter of great importance to them on which they should express an opinion.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCE OF DRESS.

Some days ago we suggested to a few nurses who chanced to have "foregathered" at the office, that they should select the subject for an article in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal*, and thereon the decree was that it should be one on dress. We accused them of having "hung up the halo," suggested that the demand for an article on dress indicated an attitude of grossest materialism which it saddened us to find among such young nurses who, up to the present, had "gone far" in laying the foundations for successful careers, but our upbraidings only were met by a chorus of remarks on the ethical influences upon their own minds arising from the possession of a pretty frock, "decent gloves and shoes," or a neat uniform; in fact such was their eloquence that we are convinced that they alone could do the subject justice. However, bearing in mind their theories as to the influence of dress upon mental hygiene and the curative effect upon a patient's nerves of a nurse who is "pleasant to look upon," we proceed humbly to enlarge upon the theories they propounded, though, writing to the tune of the typewriter and continual interpolations of the telephone, we do not find in the R.B.N.A. office, any inspiration for the particular problem in hand. The oldest and the newest of problems it is, for it finds its niche alike in the Book of Genesis; and in the morning's newspaper, and the findings of Dame Fashion regarding its solution are as erratic as the weather. To-day, she may decree that we get ourselves up in imitation of inverted candlesticks. Tomorrow she may proclaim the cult of the crinoline. Yet her vagaries accomplish compensations withal, for, in the domain over which she holds sway, it is not generally the one beautiful woman who scores, but the ninety and nine ugly ducklings; for there is no greater leveller than she, and the more flagrantly inartistic her dictates the greater the levelling.

But we are wandering from that ethical standpoint from which it was indicated, we should approach such an important subject, and we are quite disposed to agree with the nurses that dress is a factor to be reckoned with, in connection with many of the great undertakings of life. Their remarks in this connection reminded us of something we once heard a Scottish mother

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)