

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION

## LETTER FROM HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRESIDENT.

The following letter has been received from H.R.H. the President, in acknowledgement of an expression of sympathy from the Executive Committee on the death of the Crown Princess of Sweden:—

78, PALL MALL,  
May 20th, 1920.

DEAR MRS. CAMPBELL THOMSON,—Many thanks for your kind letter conveying to me the message of sympathy from the Executive Committee and the Members of the Corporation on the death of my beloved niece the Crown Princess of Sweden. May I ask you to express to the Executive Committee and the Corporation my sincere gratitude for their sympathy, which I value greatly. My dear Association has never failed me in its kind interest and sympathy in my joys and sorrows.

Believe me, most sincerely yours,

HELENA,

*President of the Royal British Nurses' Association.*

## MILITARY MEDAL AWARD.

We are pleased to note that at the Investiture held on Tuesday, June 8th, Miss Katherine Robertson Lowe, M.R.B.N.A. received the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery. The report in connection with this particular award runs as follows:—

"For gallantry and devotion to duty when, during an air-raid, bombs destroyed a large portion of the ward in which she was on night duty, wounding and burying many of the patients. She continued to carry out her duties with great composure, and showed much resourcefulness in looking after the injured."

With a reserve characteristic of her northern nationality, Miss Lowe has little to say regarding the events which led up to the award but we gather that, for a fortnight previous to the bombing of the hospital, the town in which it was situated was heavily bombed and men, women and children were wounded. Early one morning a torpedo fell on the hospital, cutting in two the ward in which Miss Lowe and another military

sister were working. Many of the patients were actually buried in debris, although, ultimately, with one exception, all were saved. As the bombing proceeded, however, those in other parts of the hospital were less fortunate for we learn that two medical officers were killed and no less than seven nursing orderlies.

Her fellow members of the Royal British Nurses' Association warmly congratulate Miss Lowe on the acknowledgment at the hands of His Majesty of her courage and resourcefulness which saved many lives under her care.

## THE FIRST REGISTER OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Executive Committee, at its last meeting, came to the decision to close the Register of Trained Nurses, although the Membership Roll will, of course, be continued as before. Now that the State Register is about to be established, Registration under any authority other than the State will be valueless to the nurses, and the Committee consider that it would mislead both the nurses and the public if the Chartered Association continued to promote a Register. Henceforth, in the eyes of the law there will be only one official Register, and we close down an important part of the work of the Corporation with the consciousness that it is giving up a function which we have long desired should be undertaken by the State itself. Looking back to the first Register of Trained Nurses, that established by the Royal British Nurses' Association, we read the names of many who have helped forward the State Registration movement—women, who have with a long-range vision, seen that, although it would bring nothing for themselves, it offered the only means for laying solid foundations for just conditions of education, work and pay for the nurses of later generations. Many of those unselfish workers, whose names stand on our Register, have now passed to their rest, but the ideals which they had in view for the profession of nursing and its members, the ideals which led them to fight so strenuously for the recognition and protection of the trained nurses' qualification by the State, still exist, and without an organisation capable of taking action in the body politic we cannot hope to get within reach of such ideals.

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